

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 17, 2013

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## Whipped up

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## Man, 25, is facing road rage allegation

A MAN has appeared in court after a father of three was attacked in an alleged road rage incident in Dudley.

Samuel Pagett, aged 25, of Cot Lane, Kingswinford, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Tuesday charged with wounding.

He gave no indication of a plea to the magistrates and was bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 9.

Pagett was arrested hours after Paul Currie was left in a coma.

He had been allegedly knocked out with a single blow after asking a driver to slow down on the Holly Hall estate in Dudley.

Mr Currie was left critical at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, where his family is keeping vigil. The alleged attack happened at 3pm on Sunday, after Mr Currie walked back from The Woodside Inn to his home after a darts match. He was initially in Russells Hall Hospital but was moved to Birmingham for an operation.

## Eight firms eye Grove's

A TOTAL of eight companies are now showing interest in buying all or part of the business of a famous Dudley button manufacturer that closed with the loss of 25 jobs.

But none has so far made an offer for James Grove and Sons, the 155-year-old factory based in Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. The firm closed before Christmas.

## Double blow

MERRY Hill Centre suffered a double blow as HMV and Jessops went into administration. HMV went into administration this week, putting thousands of jobs at risk just days after camera chain Jessops closed.

# CRACKDOWN ON 'FISHING' THIEVES

by Louise Jew

**POLICE have pledged to crack down on burglars after a spate of raids where they suspect thieves let themselves into homes in Halesowen by "fishing" through the letter-boxes for keys.**

The thieves have struck seven times in the past three months, detectives have revealed. They have stolen five cars and electrical goods in burglaries where they suspect thieves have been using a hook to grab keys left within reach of house doors. Police say the thieves are targeting properties with high value vehicles on the driveway.

## Lidl unveils proposal for town store

LIDL has unveiled plans to open a new store in Kingswinford creating up to 40 new jobs.

It comes after Morrisons launched its own redevelopment plans for its replacement store just yards along the same road. Lidl wants to build on the Duckworth Trading Estate in Stallings Lane.

Multi-million pound plans to demolish the Morrisons supermarket in Stallings Lane, and replace it with a 40,000sqft development, creating 70 jobs, are expected to be heard this month.

Kingswinford councillor Patrick Harley has welcomed the plans saying there would not be a conflict between the two stores. "They both aim at different audiences so I wouldn't have thought they would be concerned about taking trade from each other," he said. "If empty premises are left for a long time they can attract vandalism and youths hanging around so to have a well-lit supermarket there would probably be better."

He added the additional jobs bought by the store would offset the potential loss of industrial land as part of the project.

The Lidl foodstore would be built on land opposite Charterfield Drive on a furniture warehouse store, according to plans. A 70-space car park will surround the store with a new entrance off Stallings Lane.

Bosses at the retailer say they expect to submit their proposals to Dudley Council early next month.

Detective Chief Inspector Richard Jones said: "The keys had been stolen from the victim's property but there was no sign of forced entry."

"It's believed they were 'fished' through the letter box using some kind of implement."

He added: "I want to make it clear to offenders that we are working closely with second hand shops, with officers visiting regularly to check their records."

The latest incidents happened on January 3 and 4, when electrical items were taken from a house in Graham Road, and a Honda Civic from Fairfield Road.

Electrical items were taken from a house in Valley Road on December 4 and a white Kia Rio car, belonging to Belle Vale Councillor Donella Russell was stolen from Alexandra Road on November 18.

## Nightmare

She said: "They broke in and took the keys. It's been a nightmare because I need a car to do my council work. It could take a few months to sort it all out with the insurance."

On December 30 the "key fishers" struck twice, in Fallowfield Road, where they took an Audi S3, and in Longmore Road, where the target was an Audi A4.

The first reported incident was on October 20, in Tenlands Road, where a Toyota Avenis was stolen.

Mr Jones said: "We'd always encourage residents not to leave house keys in the lock or car keys or other valuables on display through glass door panels or windows."

Police say keys should be kept in a secure drawer, not in view of the front door or window.

Neighbourhood police teams are offering advice to residents at community meetings and officers are targeting known offenders with home visits.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Neep into enjoy Burns' Night



Halesowen College students Sarah Fullwood, Nicole Wassell and Victoria Park prepare for the Burns' Night celebrations hosted by the hospitality department

HAGGIS, tatties and neeps will be on the menu when students at Halesowen College's training restaurant host traditional Burns' Night festivities.

There will be two evenings of Scottish food and live entertainment on January 23 and 24. It will include bagpipes piping in the haggis, followed by the reading of The Ode to a Haggis and a toast.

A sumptuous Scottish menu will be prepared by the catering vocational students, which will include the traditional cullen skink, haggis with neeps and champi tat-

ties served with a glass of whisky. Victoria Pask, aged 16, a BTEC Hospitality student at the College, said: "Our event nights are always very successful and well attended and Burns' night is no exception."

"We are offering a great night out at a very reasonable price, please come along and join us for a traditional taste of Scotland."

People should arrive at 6.45pm. Call 0121 602 7851 or 0121 602 7777 ext 211 or email restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk for tickets.

## MP wants to meet bosses at npower

AN MP is calling for an urgent meeting with npower bosses after the energy giant announced it was closing its offices in Kingswinford.

Meanwhile union bosses have pledged to support workers.

The High Street base, which employs 284 people, will close within a year following a "strategic review" of the firm's sites.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said he wanted to discuss the reasons behind the closure as he pledged his support to staff who may be affected.

No date has yet been given for the closure, but a spokesman said it would be within the year.

The firm said some staff would be relocated but would not say if jobs were at risk, however staff said they had been warned by bosses there could be redundancies.

"While I don't expect to reverse the decision, I want to speak to them about why they have made the decision and seek what help I can for all those affected employees," said Mr Kelly.

Andrew Johnson, regional official for Unison, said he was talking to company bosses to represent the interest of union members.

He said: "We are trying to do our best for our members at the offices."

## Fire-hit firm carrying on

BOSSSES at a Halesowen factory where a fire destroyed the company's paperwork say business was carrying on as normal.

The blaze was in a storage area at Thompson Friction Welding in Here-wald Rise on Friday night.

No-one was injured but a mezzanine floor containing paperwork was destroyed by the flames and smoke.

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# Brave Judie loses battle with cancer



Judie Didlick

A DUDLEY woman has lost her battle with cancer, 14 years after being told she had only weeks to live.

Judie Didlick, of Dudley, who also used her maiden name Binfield, was 32 when she died of the cancer that had plagued her for her entire adult life. Her father, Graham Binfield paid tribute to her: "She'd always said 'two fingers up' to cancer, ever

since she was diagnosed at the age of 18 and was told she had only weeks to live," said Mr Binfield, of Alrewas, Staffordshire. "She was a bright and bubbly person, as well as brave, and wouldn't want anyone feeling sorry for her. She was determined to make it to 30 - and passed that by two years."

Judie, of Hagley Court, Lower Gornal, a former pupil at Dud-

ley's Ellowes Hall School, planned to train as a teacher but her hopes were dashed when she had the devastating diagnosis that she had metastatic alveolar sarcoma, a fast-growing and spreading cancer, in her left leg.

A tumour in the leg was removed in an operation at Birmingham Orthopaedic Hospital but over the years the cancer kept returning, striking first

at her lungs and then around her heart. She underwent two further major operations, as well as radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Judie loved shopping and was able to go on a final outing to the Merry Hill centre in her wheelchair with her father just before Christmas. But, on December 28, she died at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

# Pizza shop stored dog meals with menu food

A TAKEAWAY boss has been fined thousands of pounds after inspectors found dirty work surfaces, broken fridges and dog food stored alongside ingredients on the menu.

Mohammed Hassani, the owner of The Godfather pizzeria in Brierley Hill, admitted 11 food hygiene charges and

## MP calling to loosen breweries' ties to pubs

A DUDLEY MP is calling on the Government to do more to protect local pubs after hearing that 18 a day are closing across the country.

Ian Austin, Dudley North MP, is backing calls for a legal code to guide and regulate the relationship between large pub companies (PubCos) and their tenants and licensees. "PubCos have tenants over a barrel," said Mr Austin.

He wants to see tenants given the choice of being tied to a company or not tied to make sure there are "fair and open" business opportunities for tenants and brewers.

He supports a statutory code to stamp out abuse of the "beer tie", which forces pubicans to sell drinks provided by pub companies.

Last year the House of Commons voted unanimously for a review of the self-regulation of PubCos but ministers had taken no action until this week, when proposals for a new statutory code were announced.

Mr Austin said he would continue to back groups such as Camra to ensure a "free of tie" option is introduced by the end of the year.

## Inspections

Improvement had been noticed in more recent inspections, however, he added.

Ali Tabari, defending, said Hassani was battling debt and an unco-operative landlord who refused to allow the building to be altered.

The court heard he had made just £8,000 profit from the business last year.

He added: "The food hygiene problems have been rectified and he sees this as a wake-up call."

Mr Tabari said: "His real failure was not implementing a proper cleaning rota and document it."

He said Hassani would struggle to pay the £3,200 the court fined him along with the £4,134 in prosecution costs.

He added: "He has not been any burden on the state since he arrived from Iran in 1999 but if the fine is more than £4,000, that is what could happen."

## Volunteers plea over centre



Jeff Maybury, centre, with Philippa Morgan, left, Councillor Jill Nicholls, Judith Wheatley, Jenny Graham, Frances Daniels and Jane Bergin at the centre

Staff want to brew up support for a senior citizens' centre by launching an appeal for volunteers.

A host of activities are held at the Senior Citizens' Drop-in centre in Andrew Road, Halesowen, throughout the week.

Now staff are asking more people to give up time each week to help the thriving centre keep going strong.

Volunteers help serve cups of tea and food

and get involved in activities. But staff say their main role is to offer companionship and friendship to those who attend the centre.

It is run by a dedicated team of volunteers, aged from 16 to 83, who work between 10am and 3pm. Belle Vale Councillor Jill Nicholls said: "The centre is desperate for volunteers." To volunteer call 0121 550 0118.

# School is targeted five times by raiders

THE headteacher of a primary school hit by metal thieves five times in less than two months spoke of her devastation in the wake of the latest theft which caused severe flooding.

End-of-year celebrations at Hurst Hill Primary School in Coseley were ruined by metal thieves. The school has been targeted five times between November and mid-December, causing thousands of pounds of damage.

However, it was the most recent theft that had the biggest impact. Thieves ripped 30m2 of copper pipe from the roof just before the Christmas break, causing water to fall through the ceiling.

Headteacher Caroline Dingle said: "It caused a catastrophic flood and ruined two thirds of the school. It was just devastating."

Three classrooms were flooded, ruining children's work and the Christmas presents they planned to give each other.

The electrics were destroyed and left in a dangerous state, forcing the school to close on its last day before Christmas.

Mrs Dingle said: "I had children and staff in tears. Everyone was very upset."

## No charge on false alarms

WEST Midlands Fire Service will not be following the lead of its London counterpart in charging for false alarm call-outs.

There were more than 10,000 automatic fire alarm call-outs in the West Midlands last year and 98 per cent were false alarms.

Of the remaining two per cent, most were described as very small fires.

Station Commander Ben Brook, who is based at the service's headquarters, said West Midlands would not be charging for the call-outs but would watch London "with interest".

## Chip shop plans

AN off licence in a Dudley town centre could be transformed into a fish and chip shop as part of plans for new homes.

Bains Wines in Halesowen Road, Netherton, would be converted, according to proposals lodged with Dudley Council. Ten flats would also be built.

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## Dead body found on riverbank

A MIDLANDS man who had been missing from home for two months has been found dead.

His body was washed up on a river bank about 30 miles away.

Stuart Titley - known as Joe - from Stourport was described as "vulnerable" and was well known in the area. He disappeared after one of his regular walks along the River Severn.

His body was found near Tewkesbury, just over the Worcestershire border into Gloucestershire, and it is thought it was swept down the river during the recent flooding.

Although the circumstances of how he came to have been in the water are not yet known, police say there is not thought to be anything suspicious about the death.

Mr Titley's shopping bag, containing personal items, was found beside the river about a mile outside Stourport at a spot known as Stoney Bottom the day after he was reported missing.

The worried family of the 60-year-old last saw him on November 15 and reported him missing to police the next day. Mr Titley's body was discovered in a farmer's field at Uckinghall, near Tewkesbury.

## Sessions on cutting falls

NEW practical sessions on preventing falls for Worcestershire residents cared for by an adult relative or friend have been launched.

Each year 30 per cent of those over 65 living in the community will fall.

Residents across the county who care for someone are being encouraged to book early for the new 'falls prevention' sessions later this month.

Sessions are taking place at the YMCA in Henwick Road, St John's, Worcester, and at the Ecumenical Centre, Evesham Walk, Redditch. Call 01905 728824.

## Cider plant plan

A CIDER-making plant employing up to 12 people could be built on the outskirts of Stourport.

Aston Manor Brewery is behind the proposal for the site in Sandy Lane, Titton. The factory would include a large fruit press within an existing industrial building to crush apples from the firm's nearby orchards.

# Chance to speak out on important issues

HERE'S your chance to speak out about the important issues that affect your life - from bins and buses to policing and pensions.

All this week the Express & Star is asking readers to take part in the Your Say survey, the biggest ever independent snapshot of life in the West Midlands and Staffordshire. And it is not too late to take part.

All 50 questions will be reprinted in Saturday's Express & Star - and you can also take part at a click of a button by logging onto [www.expressandstar.com/survey](http://www.expressandstar.com/survey)

The Express & Star is asking you for your views on everything from how cuts have



affected services in your area to where you choose to do your shopping or enjoy a pint down the pub. It wants to hear from as many readers as possible so that it can paint an accurate picture of you, your views and your concerns as we enter 2013. The consultation will build on the success of last year's pioneering Express & Star Black Country

Census, which gave a valuable insight into the identity of the region, past and present, and attracted around 2,000 responses.

Split into five sections, the Your Say survey concentrates on Your Services, Your Towns, Your Transport, Your Safety and Your Well-Being.

Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "We are hoping to create a valuable snapshot of life in this region as we enter 2013. We hope the findings of the survey will provide an insight into the priorities and concerns of our readers, something that service providers like councils and the police will take notice of. 'An essential role of the

Express & Star is to give readers a voice and we want that voice to be as powerful as possible."

The Your Say survey has been welcomed by those who help to make the decisions that affect our region Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said: "This is a brilliant initiative for the Express & Star and I have no doubt that councillors, MPs and the people running public services will be watching the results very carefully.

"This is exactly the sort of thing a community newspaper should be doing - listening to local people and highlighting their opinions on the things they care about."

# Talks demanded over fears on losing bobbies on beat

**POLICE** Federation leaders are demanding talks with a police and crime commissioner over fears of losing police officers on the streets.

Up to 200 officers and 450 civilian staff are to leave the West Mercia and Warwickshire police forces by 2016.

The job losses will be shared between the two forces, which have entered into an alliance to save a combined £31 million because of government cutbacks. Newly elected West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore wants people to give their views on the plans.

They are outlined in the draft Police and Crime Plan, which sets out policing priorities for the next four years.

West Mercia Police Federation chairman Ken Mack-aill says they are estimating that 140 officers will be lost from the streets in the West Mercia force area, which includes the Wyre Forest district and Hagley.

"The force currently has around 300 fewer officers than it did three years ago, so clearly the loss of this additional number is a concern," he said.

"We will be asking for talks with Mr Longmore once a decision on the level of council tax precept increase, if any, has been made, to discuss the impact on officer numbers over the next four years.

## Police give £500 booster

POLICE in Netherton have donated £500 to a community group to improve the lives of adults with mental health difficulties in Dudley.

The Woodside Crafts charity group, at Woodside day centre, offers adults the chance to try their hands at crafts which are then put on sale. The donation was made from the West Midlands Police Property Act Fund.

Woodside Crafts charity said it will use the money to buy new up-to-date equipment and materials.

by Andrew Turton

"The public repeatedly tell us they want to see police on the beat, but this is becoming increasingly harder to achieve."

Mr Longmore said: "After listening carefully to local people during my time in office and during my election campaign, I will endeavour to protect police officers and police community support officers from redundancy and will introduce a minimum level of PCSOs.

"While I do expect staffing reductions over the next three to four years, the alliance will allow these reductions to be kept to a minimum."

To get involved, people can write to Mr Longmore at OPCC West Mercia, PO Box 487, Shrewsbury, SY2 6WB or email [opcc@west-mercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc@west-mercia.pnn.police.uk). The deadline for comments on the issue is January 28.



Gary James is congratulated by colleagues Daren Taylor, Rob Kidd, Ashley Jones, Michael Higgs, Chris Beasley and Abby Wright, after his 500km ride

## Cycling grueller helps hit £40,000

CHARITY champion Gary James has walked the Great Wall of China, trekked in Peru and journeyed through Vietnam and Cambodia on his fundraising exploits.

For his latest challenge, he hopped on his bike for a gruelling 310-mile cycle ride through central America as he smashed through the £40,000 barrier.

Mr James, who is a director at metal suppliers Alcomet Ltd in Kingswinford took nine days to complete the challenge last year. His ride took him through Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, to raise funds for children's charity the NSPCC.

Mr James said his challenge took him through stunning scenery from rainforests to the Caribbean coast. He said: "It was a tough trip involving high temperatures over rough terrain through primary rainforest, passing smoking volcanoes which meant climbing steep gradients.

"But it was a lifetime experience and I am really pleased to have travelled through three central American countries."

He is now planning to take on cycling through Death Valley.

## NEWS in brief

### Chance to check out bridal venue

COUPLES planning to tie the knot can take a tour of Himley Hall, near Dudley, at an open day to see if it would be their ideal wedding venue.

The picturesque hall, run by Dudley Council, is holding its open day on January 20, from 11am-4pm.

Himley Hall has two rooms licensed for civil ceremonies - the Pink Room, once the library of the Earls of Dudley, and the Green Room, originally the formal dining room.

### Social club could be demolished

A FORMER social club in Kidderminster faces being pulled down after the theft of lead resulted in severe rain damage.

The old Ukrainian Club, Sion Hill, was set to be converted into two flats and a pair of houses after plans were approved by Wyre Forest District Council last year.

However, the applicant, Mr Tomkins, has now asked for permission to knock down the building.

Wyre Forest District Council will make a decision in the coming months.

### Cancer charity wants 50 helpers

MARIE Curie Cancer Care is appealing for more than 50 people in Kidderminster and Stourport to help the charity's annual daffodil collection.

The charity is recruiting volunteers to hand out the daffodil pin in return for donations in the town during March.

For more information Call 0117 942 7132 or visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil).

### Cadets looking for new recruits

TEENAGERS can sign up to serve on a volunteer police cadet programme across Worcestershire.

West Mercia Police is looking for those aged between 16 and 17 who will be starting Year 12 this September to join up.

For more information Visit the force website [westmercia.police.uk/poli](http://westmercia.police.uk/poli) cecadets for details.

### New UKIP team

DUDDLEY and Halesowen UKip held its AGM at the Courthouse pub in Dudley. A new team of post holders was selected, with Bill Etheridge becoming chairman.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"FASTER, higher, stronger" is the motto of the Olympic Games. It may need rewriting following a new debate about making darts an Olympic sport by 2020. Sir Clive Woodward, Team GB's director of sport, tweeted a few days ago: "Darts definitely an Olympic sport" So that's faster, higher, stronger – and fatter.

TERMS to watch out for in 2013. "Cyber hygiene" is the responsible use of computers by individuals, companies, state departments and the military to prevent us from being overwhelmed by enemy powers.

IN TIME, age catches up with even the coolest vocal chords. According to one gushing guru, the first David Bowie single for a decade, *Where Are We Now?* has "echoes of classic Bowie". It also has echoes of Clive Dunn warbling his way through Grandad.

"THANKS to the internet it is now possible to be extremely well informed and completely wrong at the same time." Emailer's comment to a motoring DIY website.

WE are told that Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans, is front-runner to become Britain's first gay bishop. He fits the latest criteria announced by the Church because he is in a civil partnership with another priest but insists the relationship is celibate. If this is the truth (and who can doubt the word of a man of God?) then Jeffrey John and his partner are not gay in any meaningful sense. They are merely long-term friends living together. And if they are allowed the tax breaks and inheritance rights that go with civil partnership, then why are other long-term friends who live together denied the right to have civil partnerships?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Dancing gran steps in to support Hippodrome

A SALSA dancing great-gran from Dudley has added her support to the campaign to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition.

Paddy Jones, who won fans globally after being on a Spanish version of Britain's Got Talent wants the former theatre to be restored. Dudley Council has plans to demolish the building.

It has been empty since previous owners Gala Bingo closed it in 2009. The 77-year-old founder member of Stourbridge Pantomime Company performed twice at the Castle Hill venue and says she still has fond memories.

Mrs Jones, who gave up dancing aged 22, ran a shop in Stourbridge before moving to Spain in 2001 where she returned to her hobby.

The great-grandmother, who performs worldwide with dance partner Nicko Espina, said: "I appeared in Jack and the Beanstalk at Dudley Hippodrome when I was 12 and then again when I was 14 or 15."

"It's a well-known building in Dudley and it would be a real shame if it was to be pulled down. And to replace it with a car park would be very sad to see. I really hope it stays."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group have a business plan for a community theatre to host West End-style shows and workshops.

Dudley Council is looking at it with independent experts. There is still no date for the demolition application to be heard by councillors.

Council plans for a car park replacing the building were downsized from 120-spaces to 92 including disabled parking bays. Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaikat Ali, also regeneration chief, said they were awaiting the response from the experts.

**Legal eagles make £5.5m**

A BLACK Country solicitors made a record turnover of £5.5 million last year, despite tough economic conditions. Quality Solicitors Talbots, which has offices in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Codsall, Kidderminster and Stourbridge, saw an 8.3 per cent growth in revenue. Senior partner Martyn Morgan said: "We are delighted with this performance given the tough market conditions and general economic climate."

## Public to have a say on funds



Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones meets Chief Supt Stuart Johnson

THE new Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands has pledged the public will get a say on where money for policing is spent.

Bob Jones visited Brierley Hill Police Station to meet senior police officers including Supt Stuart Johnson, who highlighted anti-social behaviour as one of the key issues residents cared about.

Mr Jones, who stepped down as a Wolverhampton Labour councillor to take the £100,000-a-year post, said: "One of my key jobs in this role is to listen to the public and ensure the money is spent tackling issues they most care about."

"By talking to police officers, engaging with partner agencies and listening to the public, I intend to do just that."

Mr Jones is tasked with setting the police budget and policing priorities for the next five years for each of the wards within the West Midlands, including Dudley.

Before making the decision, he will consult with community leaders.

## Proceeds of crime go to aid a charity

A COMMUNITY group for adults with mental health difficulties in the Black Country is to benefit from a share cash confiscated from criminals.

The Woodside Crafts charity, Netherton, has been awarded £500 under the Proceeds of Crime Act by West Midlands Police.

Illegal earnings and possessions of criminals are confiscated and passed on to the community.

The cash will help the group, at Woodside Day Centre, make their own crafts and sell them to the public.

Peso Craig Dawson said: "I am so happy this group have secured funding from the act."

"The charity really does have a positive impact and without this funding, they would struggle to continue to supply the group with materials."

## Homes plan gets backing

FIVE houses and 14 flats will be built on a former industrial site near Attwood Street, off Lye High Street, near Stourbridge, after outline planning approval was agreed.

Dudley Council supported plans to redevelop the site.

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## Firm looks for former employees

HALESOWEN engineering firm Thompson Friction Welding wants to trace former staff to join in a celebration this spring.

It is holding a party at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum in May to mark the 50th anniversary of its first-ever friction weld.

The firm is keen to reunite workers from its headquarters in Halesowen and also from its original site in Ettingshall when it was known as John Thompson.

The John Thompson boiler making business was established in Highfields, Bilston, in the 1830s.

Thompson Friction Welding started by producing friction welding equipment for joining reinforced wire products used in nuclear power reactors before making machines for manufacturing parts for trucks, construction machines and exploration tools.

More than 90 per cent of equipment made at its factory in Hereford Rise is exported to Europe, Asia and the Americas. Thompson employs 90.

Former staff who wish to attend the party can email sales@thompson.co.uk or call Charlotte Mackie on 0121 585 0888.

## Change for store

A FORMER clothing store in Dudley high street is to be reopened as a BetFred bookmakers. The Millets store near Wolverhampton Street and Union Street junction has been closed for more than two years.

# Removal of Cavendish House will be a milestone, says MP

**THE demolition of an eyesore office block alongside a main route into Dudley will mark a milestone in the regeneration of the town, according to developers and the Dudley North MP.**

Calls for Cavendish House, a former Inland Revenue office block, to be redeveloped have been made since the last workers left the building five years ago. The block off Trindle Road and overlooking Dudley Southern Bypass has been boarded up following vandalism attacks.

## Dispute over parking cash

REVENUE from parking charges in Dudley rose by more than 79 per cent in a year to nearly £200,000, new figures show.

Dudley Council pocketed £199,000 from parking in 2011/12, up £88,000 from the year before, according to the Institute of Advanced Motorists. But Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transport, disputes the figures.

She said the council was making a loss because revenue was going towards the cost of enforcement and making parking areas safe. She added the council was not cutting spending on road safety as it was one of the authority's main priorities.

She said: "We can ensure the hard-pressed motorists that we are not profiteering from car parking."

"We are making a shortfall each year and are having to make an increase in parking charges in the next financial year to cover some of this. We will still be very competitive for car parking charges compared to neighbouring authorities."

She added: "Overall, we are increasing expenditure on road safety."

Security and insurance costs for the building were thought to be around £250,000 a year.

But now plans to tear down the offices to create a supermarket bringing 300 jobs and an estimated £44 million turnover have been approved by the council.

Multi-million regeneration projects which are hoping to boost tourism to the town's top attractions including Dudley Zoo and modern learning campus for Dudley College are already under way.

The scheme includes major refurbishments of Dudley Zoological Gardens and The Dudley Canal Trust.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he hoped these developments were the start of "big changes" in the town.

"For too long things have moved too slowly and I've been saying for years that we need a new strategy to bring more shoppers, tourists and businesses to Dudley," he said.

"But the plans for Cavendish House, the zoo and the college are very encouraging and show things are moving in the right direction."

Dudley Council's planning committee approved the redevelopment of the site by developer Cavendish Quarter Properties at a meeting last week.

The building faced several stalled development plans including being transformed into a 150-room hotel.

## Cooper's touch of genie-us



Cast Clive Ditchfield, Kirsty Aldridge, John Pemberton, Leanne Ditchfield, and Ray Chapman

JUST like that! A drama group's take on pantomime Aladdin begins later this month - with a genie inspired by the legendary Tommy Cooper.

Starline Variety will be performing Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp at the Cornbow Centre, Halesowen from January 30 to February 2.

The script was written over the space of a year by long-standing group member Mike Clifford, who decided to create a genie with all Cooper's characteristics.

He added: "Tommy Cooper's jokes weren't particularly good - they were all really stupid - but he got away with it and made people laugh because of the way he told them."

Tickets cost around £10, call 0121 5503899.

## NEWS in brief

### Fundraisers are sent a big thanks

STAFF at a hospice have thanked fundraisers who dressed up as Father Christmas for an annual event as the donations pour in.

Mary Stevens Hospice, based in Stourbridge, hope to raise around £20,000 when final figures are counted in the coming weeks.

More than 600 Santas gathered in Mary Stevens Park last month to take part in the family fun run. Kinver Rotary Sleigh also travelled down the mall bringing Father Christmas to see some of the children taking part in the run.

### Entrepreneurs are back in business

THE entrepreneurs who started the Julian Graves chain are back in business with 10 health food stores now open and run from a Black Country base.

JG Foods, which has its distribution centre at The Pensnett Estate, Kingswinford, sells dried fruits, nuts and confectionery at its Grape Tree branded outlets around the country. More than 30 people are employed so far.

### Storage scheme

PLANS to demolish a storage block at Stourbridge Institute Social Club have been lodged with Dudley Council. The proposals is to flatten the timber structure in Market Street and replace it with a permanent one.

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## NEWS

# Bid to give High Street revamp to boost trade

**REFURBISHED footpaths, public art installations and new planting are among plans for a revamp of High Street in Quarry Bank.**

Councillors want to boost businesses along the main road by improving the shopping experience. Calls have long been made for a regeneration scheme to revamp the street, near the Merry Hill shopping centre. Deputy council leader Shaikat Ali, the authority's regeneration boss, has now announced details for a consultation.

Residents will be able to raise ideas on what improvements they would like to see.

Public art and newly planted trees along the street close to shops are thought to be ways to help brighten surroundings.

Councillor Ali said: "I'm confident that the local community and businesses will want to find out more about these early proposals and take the chance to share their views with us."

"As a listening council we really value the input of our residents and we know that taking on board their aspirations and opinions serves to strengthen any future funding applications that we make."

A nature trail could also be created in the grounds of Christ Church, in High Street. The church is already undergoing its own revamp. Parishioners celebrated the completion of a £12,000 scheme to improve the church entrance and restore brass in the building. The public consultation will be held at Quarry Bank Community Centre, from January 19 to February 2 in Sheffield Street.

## Pay day from the girls



**Back from left, Chris Porter, Karen Whittingham, Sandra Pope and Maria Lodge with, front from left, Liz Sparke, Philippa Jones and Kaye Senior**

A THEATRE company has raised thousands for charity with its production of Calendar Girls.

Stourbridge Theatre Company has presented a cheque for £8,500 to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

The work of the original Calendar Girls is dedicated to the memory of John Baker who died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1998 aged

54. In 1999, Angela Baker and her friends from Yorkshire's Rylstone and District WI decided to pose nude for a fundraising calendar.

Philippa Jones, regional manager for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, said: "It is fantastic to see the fundraising legacy of the Calendar Girls live on through the work of amateur theatre companies such as Stourbridge Theatre Company."

## Quitting is on the cards

CARDS telling Worcestershire smokers where they can get help to quit are being distributed among shops and businesses.

Worcestershire's assistant director of public health, Frances Howie said: "We are distributing contact cards in areas where we know there is a higher prevalence of smoking." The cards feature a helpline 01905 363 909 and [www.stopsmokingworcestershire.nhs.uk](http://www.stopsmokingworcestershire.nhs.uk).

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## LETTERS

## How the cuts are made is crucial

I THINK David Cameron's "problem" lies not in persuading the public savings need to be made but how they are made. The arguments for slashing benefits and essential services has not been won. The welfare budget may account for one third of national spending and that is too high.

However, instead of removing benefits which, represent little more than spare change for the very wealthy - I am thinking of free bus passes; the winter fuel allowance and in extreme cases the old age pension - this government is taking money from those who have least to start with in real terms.

This cannot be fair and will undermine all of the other initiatives rightly taken by the coalition upon weeding out benefit cheats because welfare reform in its current guise will not only punish those guilty of abusing the system but will also punish the genuine claimant.

This will cause resentment and serve to alienate those genuinely unable to earn a living in the conventional sense.

A case in point is a relative of mine. He is 58 worked most of his life. He did have a spell of three years on sick pay following a very bad accident but until last August had worked constantly for 29 years. His pay was never substantial

but he raised a family and paid his way. He has little savings but owes no one anything. Now he is unemployed and work is difficult to find if you are unskilled and the wrong side of 50 but instead of getting support he will have to pay £50 a month for the spare bedroom in his house and face a real terms cut in his benefit from April. I believe most people view such things as profoundly unfair particularly when government is giving tax breaks to millionaires.

E SHAW  
Forest Road  
Dudley

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
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WV1 1ES

## E-MAIL

dudleychrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Pleas over murder alleyway 'ignored'

I WAS disappointed but not surprised to read that the efforts by Sedgley residents to have the council take action over the alleyway where Shane Watson was murdered had fallen on deaf ears.

Some months ago I attended a Pact meeting at Dormston School, Sedgley. Over a hundred people were in attendance and the voices from the crowd were often passionate in their calls for action. Not everybody wanted the alley closed, some people wanted CCTV or better lighting. The only thing that nobody wanted was for the council to do nothing.

I actually spoke out and told the Sedgley councillors in attendance that the status quo was not an option.

Only the night before I had attended another meeting where one of the same Sedgley councillors had assured the room there was no problem with gangs or violence in Sedgley. An astonishing claim for anybody who is aware of the difficulties experienced by small businesses and residents in parts of the village plagued by gangs and yobbish behaviour.

BILL ETHERIDGE, Sedgley, Dudley

## Alternative to putting squeeze on us all

DUDLEY Council has another option for raising revenue apart from squeezing council taxpayers.

Why don't they invoke the covenant on the land in Hall Street?

The land could then be sold for a realistic, commercial price more in keeping with its value rather than the £20,000 paid by the Dudley Muslim Association.

It would then comply with Dudley Council's original Unitary Development Plan for that area.

The benefit would be far-reaching, benefiting the whole of Dudley borough creating jobs and raising revenue from those businesses.

TONY CROFT  
Barton Lane  
Wallheath

## Show was a shining example of dedication

I HAD the privilege of attending the Dormston School, Sedgley, on Tuesday December 11 and was entertained with music, drama and some excellent poems and verse, spoken by the teaching staff, it was brilliant.

The whole show must have taken so much effort by the staff and boys and girls who performed; such dedication.

We hear so much adverse comments about young people today, and it is very refreshing to see these young ones put in such a special effort.

My granddaughter Courtney took part, which made me very proud. Thank you everyone concerned.

A brilliant New Year to you.

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## NEWS

# Cyclist Paul to saddle up again after fight for life

A CYCLIST who nearly died after a head-on crash in France has pledged to battle back from his horrendous injuries to have another go at tackling the arduous mountain bike ride.

Paul Greaves, a PcsO, wants another go at Mont Ventoux – the iconic mountain on the Tour de France route – to face his "demons".

Mr Greaves, 37, from Stourbridge, was practising for a charity ride on Mont Ventoux in September when he was hit by a van, leaving him in a coma for three days.

The bone structure in his right shoulder was totally smashed and he may never regain the use of his arm.

Paul, Pc Gareth Harrison, a 41-year-old traffic officer from Kidderminster, and Barry Tyson, also 41, a Gloucestershire train driver, had arrived in France to cycle three routes around the steep Mont Ventoux for the Stillborn and Neonatal Death Society, Sands.

"I hit a truck," said Paul. "I was flown to hospital in Marseilles and had a bleed on the brain so they put me in a coma for three days."

His wife, Jayne, a 37-year-old security manager at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, flew out to Marseilles and 10 days later he was flown to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where surgeons grafted a length of nerve from his left leg to try to repair some of the damage to his scapula.

His aim is to return to Mont Ventoux with an adapted bike.

"It's to face my demons," said Paul, who also hopes to return to work soon.



Paul Greaves from Stourbridge, who was in a coma after his crash

## Choir raises the notes

CHOIR Viva Musica has raised £2,200 for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice through its 2012 concerts.

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## NEWS

## Mike's animal magic



Mike Grace, aged 48, who has landed his dream job with Dudley Zoological Gardens

A FORMER museum and art gallery worker has swapped high culture for the animal world.

Mike Grace, aged 48, was made redundant from his maintenance job at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery last year after 22 years of service.

But 2013 has brought him a new job – full-time work at Dudley Zoo's busy maintenance department.

Mr Grace said: "I have always been passionate about animal welfare, and I have always felt at ease around animals. I am just so delighted to have landed a full time job at DZG, it's just the most fantastic news." Redundancy had allowed Mr Grace to indulge his passion for animals by volunteering at the zoo.

He said: "It was a shock to be made redundant after all that time, but I jumped at the chance to do some voluntary work at the zoo."

After his six-month stint of volunteering, his bosses were so impressed that they did not want to lose him. Curator Matt Lewis said: "Mike is extremely conscientious and he really enjoys his work."

# £10m plans for town are welcomed by boss of zoo

THE boss of Dudley Zoo has welcomed a major step in the regeneration of Castle Hill after plans were submitted for a £10.1million project to link all three of the town's biggest tourist attractions.

by Heather Large

A single point of access will be created for the zoo, Dudley Canal Trust, and the Black Country Living Museum under the proposals aimed at boosting visitor numbers.

A shared car park offering 600-spaces will be created, along with a new visitor entrance for the zoo.

An attractive piazza, built at the back of the existing car park, will welcome families and there will be animal sculptures and seating for visitors to relax.

Dudley Zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock said the project was a welcome boost.

"Our customers constantly remind us this area offers both their first and last view of Dudley," he added.

"And thus providing a new entrance leading directly from our car park

to the zoo site will greatly enhance the visitor experience," added Mr Suddock.

The work follows completion of the new access road off Tipton Road, which is next to the new archive centre.

New entrances will also be created off the access road for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

## Summer

Proposals for the redevelopment have been submitted by the council and work could start on creating the projects by early summer.

Cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Shaikat Ali said: "This next stage of the planning process for Castle Hill is an exciting one and forms a brand new chapter for all of the visitor attractions on the site."

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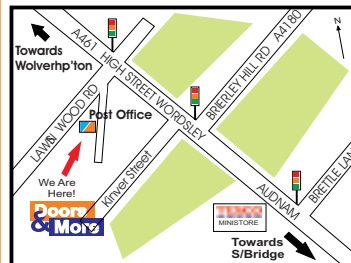


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## MEMORY LANE



Graham Gough's award-winning photograph of Princess Alexandra stuck in the mud at the Three Counties Show



One of Graham Gough's pictures taken during race riots in Dudley



Jared Watkins at 18 months old proves he's no dummy with the darts

## How Graham captured history on his camera

A FORMER Press photographer has gathered up a collection of his work taken during his time working in newspapers to create a chronicle of the region's history.

The unique collection of black and white pictures taken by Graham Gough, aged 73, from Kinver, in 50 years on local papers has been published in *The Black Country Album*.

Each chapter covers the different people, animals and celebrities he met in his patch in Dudley as well as all the big incidents he covered during his 26 years with the *Chronicle's* sister paper, the *Express & Star*.

The first chapter looks at the big news stories he photographed, including the Dudley race riots, fires, regional floods, rail accidents and even some rather risqué pictures of a male stripper bearing all.

Large parts of the book focus on local people and heroes, including a

by Tom Mason



number of early pictures of Black Country funny man Lenny Henry performing for class mates in his Dudley school soon after his first television appearance on *New Faces* in 1974.

The West Midlands has had its fair share of royal visits and Graham was present for many of them.

His picture of Princess Alexandra stuck in the mud at the Three Coun-

ties Show, Malvern, in June 1977, won National Royal Picture of the Year award.

One of the final chapters focuses on what Graham loves photographing best, children and animals and features lots of them doing weird and wonderful things.

With his time mainly spent in Dudley, Graham spent plenty of time capturing the wildlife at the town's famous zoo.

But it wasn't just the exotic that he captured. Some of his more interesting pictures are of sheep at a bar and a dog in a tuba.

One of the more intriguing pictures in the book is that of Jared Watkins, of Sledmere estate, Dudley, who at the age of just 18 months could throw darts as well as Phil 'The Power' Taylor.

Copies of *The Black Country Album* can be snapped up from [www.thehistorypress.com](http://www.thehistorypress.com) or [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk) or high street stores such as Waterstones and W H Smiths for £12.99.



Lenny Henry was a guest on the Black and White Minstrels when Graham persuaded him to paint his face

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A working union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Retired sales director Clive was terrified of dentists. Read why now he's changed his view

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## Clive's transformation



All smiles – Clive with wife Margaret

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CLIVE was so afraid of the dentist he plucked up all of his courage and begged him to extract all of his teeth so that he'd never have problems ever again.

That was more than 20 years ago, but what the retired sales director didn't know was that his tooth troubles were far from over.

Following the extractions dentures were fitted and he no problems for a few years. But the ageing process took its toll and Clive experienced stability problems with the lower denture as his gums receded. For five years he endured the embarrassment of ill-fitting teeth, sore spots and denying himself favourite foods.

Clive recalls his first dental nightmare: Stationed at Malta, the Royal Navy man suddenly had raging toothache. "I'd been drinking to dull the pain but as soon as I was back on board the duty dentists was summoned. He'd been drinking too

and when he injected me broke off the needle in my gum. That was me finished with dentists." In recent years Clive had four denture relines to help the stability issues, but none provided a long-term solution.

Clive decided to have implant-retained dentures. He was referred by Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), whose Denture Clinic is based at North Street, Dudley, and in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, to implantologist Mr Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

Since having the implant-retained dentures, Clive has been able to bite into crispy apples and indulge himself with pork crackling. "It's the best money I've ever spent and it's been a real boost. I was dreading having it done, but I can honestly say I felt no pain at all," he says.

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## NEWS

## Sam splashing out



Sam Britton, aged 23, from Dudley, is taking part in a sponsored swim in memory of his grandmother, Joyce Smith

A KEEN swimmer is hoping people will splash out to help raise money for charity.

Sam Britton is aiming to swim 100 lengths to raise money in memory of his grandmother, Joyce Smith from Wordsley.

Sam, aged 23, a marketing executive from Gornal Wood, has pledged to raise at least £100 for the Alzheimer's Society.

He says festive excess has left him able to manage only 10 to 15 lengths before he needs a break.

But he is in training at Wombourne Leisure Centre to build up his stamina to swim nearly two miles non-stop on March 2. Anyone who would like to support Sam should visit <http://bit.ly/Su173>.

## Plans for 70 homes near reserve get green light

PLANS for 70 homes on the edge of a Dudley nature reserve have been approved. The houses will be built near Saltwells Local Nature Reserve on the Kuehne and Nagel UK site which provides warehousing and transport services.

by Andrew Turton

Around 34 people employed at the site in Saltwells Road, Netherton, will be moved to the company's other sites out of the area. Planning committee member Councillor Tim Wright said the scheme would mean jobs were lost from Dudley, adding: "I think it is a great shame."

Netherton councillor Qadar Zada also voiced concerns on increased traffic using the site which could affect air quality in the area.

He is already leading a campaign to improve air quality after Netherton was identified as a problem area.

Dudley Council is conducting an air quality survey around Netherton and Cradley, with traffic congestion blamed for the problem.

Councillor Zada said: "The air quality is

extremely poor in Netherton and we must do all we can to improve this."

However, Dudley Council's planning committee voted unanimously to award outline permission for demolition of the factory units.

A more detailed plan looking at the scale and sizes of homes will be outlined at a later date.

Under the proposals, developer Aube Properties Ltd would be asked to make a contribution of £2,365 to the nature reserve for foot-path improvements.

Out of the homes built, 10 per cent would be classified as affordable housing.

The approach to the Saltwells Road junction with Saltwells Lane will be changed.

A wall will be moved and the site landscaped to give drivers a better view at the blind corner.



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## NEWS

# College development to boost prospect of jobs

DUDLEY College's latest multi-million town centre development has secured the unanimous backing of councillors who heralded the scheme for boosting manufacturing prospects of the region.

The £6.6 million advanced manufacturing and engineering base, known as Dudley Advance, will join other new education developments in the "Learning Quarter" around the town.

It will be built on a car park that was once the home for Dudley Girls High School, in Priory Road, after the planning committee approved the scheme.

Specialist workshops, classrooms, resource centre and student welfare facilities will be among features at the site. The building will replace outdated engineering departments on the Broadway campus.

Previous plans had earmarked the Broadway site for a revamp but councillors allowed the college to alter its plans to pursue the Priory Road development.

Councillor Qadar Zada said the scheme "cements Dudley as the hub for education" in the region. "It tackles the skills shortage in manufacturing in the area," he said.

Councillor Tim Wright said: "These developments act as a springboard for the regeneration of the town centre."

Dudley College has been awarded a £2.2m grant from the Skills Funding Agency – a third of the cost of the development of the Dudley Advance centre – in a bid to fund the opening of the centre by next year.

## Access to lake improved

WALKERS and anglers will no longer have to climb over barriers to reach a lake on a housing estate.

Worcestershire County Council has worked with a fishing club and anglers to improve access to Captains Pool at Spennells, Kidderminster. There is now an opening for walkers.

## Pictures in an exhibition



Artist Paul Hipkiss with his piece - rated as best in the exhibition

TWO prize-winning pieces of art feature in a Dudley art group's exhibition this month.

Dudley Society of Artists is showcasing more than 100 works by about 40 members at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery including work by Paul Hipkiss, of Halesowen, and Bewdley's Shirley Bonas.

Mr Hipkiss's print of a farm house in the Dysynni Valley, Wales, was chosen as the best work at the exhibition.

Mrs Bonas's work, a watercolour of allotment gardens entitled End of Season, was awarded the prize for best watercolour.

The show is the artists' group 83rd exhibition since it was formed by Dudley artist and teacher CV MacKenzie in 1928.

Programme secretary Keith Turley said it gave the members a chance to show the work they had done during the year.

He added: "This is a long-established group which has produced a lot of good work over the years."

"We have people of all levels." The group meets every Wednesday evening at Castle Hill School, St James Road, where they work mostly with costume models or on individual projects.

Over the past year classes have included wildlife painting, advice on framing artwork and portraits.

Once each month there is also a talk or demonstration by a guest artist.

The exhibition runs until February 23.

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Mr. Tony Hardiman, Managing Director at Dyson Energy Services says "We are very proud to have been given the job of bringing the ECO Affordable Warmth service to customers. It's a marvelous scheme whereby those who qualify could receive a new boiler or repair, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation to mention just a few measures – and because our Quality Management System conforms to BS EN ISO9009, this together with a team of Quality Control Officers ensures that

our work is of the highest possible standards."

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Tony Hardiman goes on to say "We don't know how long the scheme will be available for so it's vitally important that those households that think they may be eligible should call us straight away to avoid disappointment – it's free and could make all the difference between a cold home – or a warm one."

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  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- Income-based job seeker's allowance (unemployed or work less than 16 hours a week) with either:
  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education or
  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- Income support (lone parent, on mat/ paternity leave or carer) with either:
  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education or
  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- State pension credit
- Working tax credit with an income of £15,860 or less with either:
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\* Funding is through the Energy Company Obligation.

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## NEWS

# Church cash call so path of love can run smoothly

A CHURCH in Kingswinford has launched an appeal to raise thousands to fund urgent footpath repairs ahead of its busy wedding season.

More than 30 weddings have been booked so far for this year at St Mary's Church, which is the oldest in Dudley borough, and leaders are keen for the churchyard to be looking its best.

But the pathways in the grounds are in desperate need of refurbishment after becoming riddled with ruts.

The church is responsible for maintaining them and needs to raise around £11,000 to cover the cost of the repair work.

It's hoped the work can get under way in the spring.

Around £2,000 has already been donated towards the work but now church members have launched The Tarmac Appeal to raise some of the remainder. Applications are also being made for some grant funding.

Church treasurer Mike Penn said: "It is hoped the money can be raised quickly so the work can be done in the spring in time for the new season of weddings at the church."

"Church members have given huge amounts of money to the restoration fund over recent years. In partnership with our friends in the local community we hope we can do this next job quickly."

Churchwarden Mary Thompson added: "With over 30 weddings already booked in for 2013 we hope we can relay our pathways quickly, and thus get rid of the puddles that build up after a shower."

During the past five years the church has carried out an extensive restoration programme. Anyone who can help should call the organisers on 01384 270806.

## Sounds like recent history

A LOCAL history talk entitled "Sounds of the Decades: the 1950s" will be held at Kingswinford Library on February 13 at 2.30pm.

## Daughter's mountain trek



Sue Boex will do on a charity fundraising trek in memory of her father

A DAUGHTER will be trekking in the Atlas Mountains, inspired by her father, to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

Sue Boex, aged 66, of Wrekin Drive, Stourbridge, said she was inspired to plan the trek after her father Philip's battle with the disease. In 2008 she walked in the

Himalayas, raising £4,000 and in 2011 could be found in the Sinai Desert. She said: "I'm getting on a bit - it will be challenging."

Mrs Boex hopes to do her trek in Morocco in September to raise at least £2,500.

Her website for donations is [www.justgiving.com/Sue-Boex1](http://www.justgiving.com/Sue-Boex1).

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## NEWS

# Service of dedication as restored bells returned



Bell ringers at Christ Church at the rededication service

HISTORIC bells rang out again at a Stourbridge church as more than 150 people marked the completion of a £40,000 restoration. They were at Christ Church, Lye, for a rededication service to mark the bells return.

by Andrew Turton

Archdeacon of Dudley, the Venerable Fred Trethewey, joined the Reverend Simon Falshaw, to lead the service.

The congregation launched a fundraising drive to restore bells at the High Street church and they were removed from the tower for the first time in 120 years.

After a two year project to restore them, new bell-ringers, including children, are getting expert tuition.

Bells restoration committee chairman Bob Field, said: "It was a really good turnout and this is the official recognition the bells are back."

"We have had a lot of support from bell ringing groups across the country."

"It's nice the bells are finally back to where they

should be." Wear and tear took its toll on the ornate bells and they were only being rung occasionally but committee members

sourced donations including £15,000 from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, £5,000 from Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Other cash came from donations.

Replacement pieces, including new headstocks and clappers, had to be specially designed.

The bells were made by Belgian firm Severin Van Aerschoot with markings and inscriptions.

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## NEWS

## Walking in moonlight

AN annual charity moonlit walk for women will be held this summer for a hospice in Stourbridge.

The Moonlight Memories walk starts from Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, in Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

The 6.5 mile event is on May 11 with funds raised going to Mary Stevens Hospice. Walkers can gather from 7pm for a warm up at 7.30pm.

Registration is £12. Walkers must be over 12 and anyone under 16 must have and adult with them. Visit [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk) or call 01384 377778.

## Prizes plan for the right rubbish to boost recycling

RADICAL plans to encourage more people to recycle have been unveiled – including entering rubbish into raffles for the chance to win prizes.

Children will add a 'guilt factor' for parents as binmen will be handing out school vouchers to every home correctly separating its waste.

It is part of plans by Wolverhampton City Council to make use of a £2.68 million government grant.

The cash, offered to ensure there will always be weekly bin collections, is being used to get more people to put recyclable rubbish into the correct bin.

It comes after Dudley Council was also awarded £1.8m to continue emptying bins every week. Environment councillor Tracy

Wood said the money will be spent on increasing the amount of recycling collections in the borough.

The council is planning to spend the money on extra vehicles, boxes, bags and staff in order to roll out the plastic bottle and cardboard recycling trial to all households in the borough.

Under plans in Wolverhampton, residents would be sent stickers to put on recyclable rubbish such as cardboard boxes. Items would then be selected at random from the council's processing plant in Southampton and prizes handed out.

Wolverhampton City Council has been offered £2.68m over three years if it commits to keeping its weekly collections of non-recyclable waste.

## Archives on schedule



Construction has reached the halfway mark

THE multi-million pound archives project in Dudley which has now reached the half-way mark and is on track to be completed this summer.

External cladding on the £6 million building, near the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road, is almost complete.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "The exciting work to create an archives centre in Dudley, that we are sure will be the envy of others, is gathering pace all the time."

"We have now reached the half-way stage of the development work as construction started last summer and is on schedule to be completed this summer."

"As well as housing the borough's archives, once open, the new centre will provide IT and wireless services, education and conference rooms, a rare books library and a research room."

The centre is being built by Midland's contractor GF Tomlinson and is being part funded by the European Regional Development Fund, as part of the wider redevelopment of the Castle Hill area of Dudley.

Once the building is finished, Dudley Council's archives service will relocate from its building, in Mount Pleasant, Coseley.

When the new one opens it will also be used to store documents for neighbouring Sandwell Council.

## Shop's plea for more supplies



Assistant manager James Buckley and manager Vanessa White are appealing for help

A CHARITY shop in Dudley is looking for more volunteers and donations of goods to sell.

The Scope shop in Stourbridge has sent out an appeal for more support.

The charity, which works with disabled people and their families, is appealing for more stock to sell in their stores and also for volunteers to help at its branch in Market Street.

Store manager Vanessa White said:

"We're desperate for more stock, particularly ladieswear and menswear. We'd also like any unwanted Christmas gifts that people might want to give away."

The charity's area manager Olive Lowe said: "The shortage is all year round but I think especially since we were closed over Christmas and New Year and people have been so busy."

Anybody interested could visit [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk) or call 01384 379857.

A cold home can make you ill...  
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# Winter warmth

Each winter up to 200 people in Dudley Borough die as a result of being too cold in their home. Being cold at home isn't just uncomfortable, any health problems can be made much worse, or even fatal by being cold.

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keeping you  
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**NHS**

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Metropolitan Borough Council

## Castle hall is set to mark Burns' night

A BURNS' Night supper will be held at a historic castle near Kidderminster later this month.

The event will be held in the Great Hall of Hartlebury Castle on January 25 with doors opening at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

It will feature performances of poetry and song complete with a performance by a piper and drummer from West Midlands Fire Service Pipe Band.

Those attending will also enjoy a traditional menu including haggis, neeps and tatties. People will also be invited to take a twirl around the dance floor.

Tickets for the event are £30 per person and must be booked.

All proceeds will go towards the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust, which is seeking to buy the historic site.

Tickets are available by contacting [jacqui.watson11@gmail.com](mailto:jacqui.watson11@gmail.com).

Alternatively credit or debit card bookings can be made via the museum reception on 01299 250416.

## History of high school

THE Wyre Forest Historical Research Group will hold its first meeting of the year on January 22.

Jo Roche will give a talk called Pioneers in Petticoats, which tells the story of the founders of Kidderminster High School for Girls.

It will take place in the King Charles Room, upstairs at Kidderminster Town Hall.

Publicity officer Gay Hill said: "Many former students at the school will be interested to hear the story of both the building and the founding of the school in 1868 at Broomfield Hall."



## NEWS

# 175 homes approved in face of fierce opposition

## Blood hound lifesavers



Blood donor dogs Cara, Ealga and Teagan with owner Paddy Grice

IRISH wolfhounds Teagan, Cara and Ealga are beloved pets but they are also lifesavers.

The three dogs are what owners Paddy and Gill Grice describe as "walking blood banks". The rescue dogs have found a loving home with the Pedmore couple. Mr Grice, aged 54, said: "Dog blood can't be stored like human blood can and the

nearest centre for it is in Leicester." Mr and Mrs Grice, of Chawn Park Drive, have found themselves caring for up to four of the imposing beasts at any one time.

Because of their sheer size Teagan and Cara act as blood donor dogs for Blacks Veterinary Group. More details can be found at [www.dog-blooddonors.com](http://www.dog-blooddonors.com)

**CONTROVERSIAL** plans for 175 homes on the Hagley Hall estate have been approved despite fierce opposition from neighbours who feared it would put pressure on vital services.

Proposals for the development, earmarked for land on the estate near Stourbridge had attracted objections, including a petition signed by more than 4,000 people. More than 100 residents packed into the council chamber to hear Bromsgrove District Council's planning committee's debate last week. Council officials recommended approval of the scheme.

Among those who spoke out against the Cala Homes proposal was Rachel Jenkins, who was speaking on behalf of the Hagley Residents' Action Group.

She said services in the village, including the primary school and doctors surgery, would be stretched beyond "breaking point" by the influx of new residents.

Many people feared the development would be cut off from the village, she told the committee.

"The new remote community, dropped on to the outskirts of Hagley will not be cohesive with Hagley," she said.

Other concerns included the potential increase in traffic and the safety of planned changes to the A491 and A456 roundabout to accommodate a new access road.

But councillors said the development abided by planning rules and no objections have been lodged by the highways officers.

Councillor John Tidmarsh said there was a demand for housing in Hagley.

## Beginning with the bees

A BEGINNER course in beekeeping will take place in a village near Stourbridge.

Sessions will start at 7pm on January 31 at Hagley Community Centre in Worcester Road. There will be eight two-hour classes before 10 practical sessions. To book call Nick Templar on 07800 856386 or email: [admin@hsbka.org](mailto:admin@hsbka.org).

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## NEWS

## Facebook campaign for return of plaque

CALLS have been made for the return of a plaque put up in Halesowen to mark part of the town's past.

It recognises the history of the Laconstone Stream which runs underneath Halesowen but was once one of its main features.

The plaque used to hang next to Plaza Malls indoor market in the High Street, but now councillors have revealed it is in storage awaiting restoration. More than 100 people have kick-started a campaign via Facebook asking for its swift return.

The plaque is thought to have been put up by the former Halesowen Urban District Council.

It marks the spot where a former bridge connected Halesowen High Street to Hagley Street which ran over the old Laconstone stream.

The stream now runs in a culvert under the Plaza Malls building.

## Adult courses

ADULTS from across the Hagley borough can now sign up for adult learning courses this month.

Adult and Community Learning's latest prospectus lists hundreds of part-time courses which are being run at colleges and community venues in the borough.

For details call 01384 818143.

## Village now has new battle against retirement complex

**FRESH** from losing the fight to stop plans for 175 new homes in the village, Hagley parish councillors are braced for a new battle against a "monstrous" retirement complex.

Developers McCarthy and Stone have applied to Bromsgrove Council for permission to build a four-storey sheltered retirement home centre, with 56 apartments, at the former Middle School in Park Road, Hagley. It follows hot on the heels of approval by Bromsgrove planners of Cala Homes' proposals to build an estate on land owned by Viscount Cobham.

The site near Hagley Hall is bordered by the main Kidderminster to Birmingham road and the M5 feeder road.

Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said that after local residents had objected during a public consultation to proposals for fewer units, the developers had not only increased the number but also added an extra storey to the building. "It's unbelievable really," he added.

Worcestershire County Council wants to sell the former school site for housing but Mr Colella said the parish council would prefer it was used to create extra playing fields or public open space, which the village needed.

Fellow councillor Mark Fenton said: "It looks like a monstrous application for the site, overlooking residents and the primary school next door. It will have

an overwhelming impact on traffic and road safety."

The parish council voted unanimously on Tuesday night to oppose the development on its scale and size. Parish councillors are also researching whether Hagley really needs extra retirement homes.

Hagley's planning spokesman Peter King said: "The Park Road building would be the most substantial building in the village - bigger even than Hagley Hall."

The parish council is also lining up to join neighbouring Clent Parish Council in a fight against proposals for 70 new homes in Western Road, Hagley, which are due to be considered by Bromsgrove planners soon.

Mr Colella said objections to the Western Road and Park Road developments included the reasons for opposing the Cala Homes plans - an increase in traffic, worsening air quality and overloading local health and school services.

by Louise Jew

## Panto performers prepared for Puss



Shannon Wheatley, aged 14, as the Princess, Liam Huband, 15, as Sammy Smythe and Beth Henwood, 14, as Puss, get set for the production of Puss in Boots

EXCITEMENT is building ahead of a theatre group's 41st annual production.

The Young Ones will be performing Puss in Boots at Netherton Arts Centre from January 26 to February 2.

A cast and crew of more than 70 has been preparing for the show and director Audrey Henwood said she expected it to be one of the group's best yet.

"Puss in Boots has not been done in the area for a while so we think it will be a bit different," she said.

"Aladdin and Cinderella are all glamour and glitz and are very popular but we have done them several times before.

"This pantomime has a cat and cow in it and children love that."

Mrs Henwood said they had overcome many challenges including illustrating a flying balloon at one point in the show.

About 80 per cent of the tickets on offer have already been sold. They cost £8 for adults but £9 on the Saturday. For more information call 01384 895266.

## Homes to be built on former fire site

MORE than a dozen homes will be built on the former site of Halesowen Fire Station after councillors supported the scheme.

Cash from the sale of the land will be used to help pay costs of building the replacement £3 million station in Cradley Heath.

Fire crews moved out of the Halesowen station, Hagley Road, last year when services in the two towns were merged. Dudley Council's planning committee says the new homes will complement the surrounding housing estate.

West Midlands Fire Service downscaled its original plans for 22 homes to 14 properties after objections from neighbours.

But, under the new outline plans approved last week, the development would consist of three and four-bedroom houses.

West Midlands Fire Authority chairman and Sandwell Councillor John Edwards said the decision signalled the next stage of the overall project.

## Mask workshop

YOUNGSTERS in Brierley Hill can make their own polar bear mask at a workshop.

The craft session will take place at the town's library in High Street from 2.30pm to 3.30pm on January 26. It is free to attend. For details call 01384 812874.

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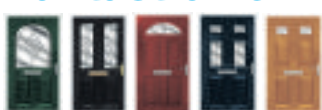


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## £30,000 for research on how arthritis hits families

A HEALTH psychologist has won a £30,000 grant to help her research into arthritis and its effect on families.

Elizabeth Hale, based at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, hopes to produce educational information for children after charity Arthritis Research UK made the grant to find out what kind of information could be useful to seven-11-year-olds with a parent affected by inflammatory arthritis.

Miss Hale will collaborate with University of Leicester colleagues to build on research suggesting that adults with arthritis find it difficult to speak to their children about the condition.

Developing educational resources may help children better understand their parents' condition and empower them to ask questions that they might otherwise be nervous about asking, said Miss Hale, who will conduct research over two years.

# Wife's tribute after fall death of husband, 56

**THE wife of a Kidderminster man who died after falling from the porch roof while removing Christmas decorations today paid tribute to her "thoughtful and romantic" husband.**

John Kershaw, aged 56, was knocked unconscious after he fell 10ft from his porch roof and landed headfirst on concrete shortly before 10.30am on Saturday. Mr Kershaw, of Lea Bank Avenue, suffered head injuries. He was flown to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham at about 11.30am after being found by his wife's son, Jonathan Doughty, who called emergency services.

Mr Kershaw's wife, Wendy, 47, said the family was told by doctors to prepare for the worst. "It was a waiting game," she said. "They said we should prepare ourselves."

"My mum came down with all the family. He died last night and it had just started snowing. John loved the snow. He sent it to me."

"He didn't drink, he didn't smoke and he didn't deserve this. He was one of the best. He'll never be forgotten."

Mrs Kershaw said that she had told her husband not to go up on the porch roof because she was concerned it was slippery.

She said that she would remember her husband as a "thoughtful and romantic"

**By Will Ackerman**

man who was "like a second father" to her two children, Jonathan, 24, and Steven Doughty, 21.

She added: "I still can't believe he's gone. He was so young. He was such a thoughtful and romantic man."

"He loved his Xbox. He was a very capable person and a real perfectionist."

"We are all very proud of him."

"He was well loved, a pillar of strength and he'd do anything for anybody," she added.

Mr Kershaw, who was a director at Stourport-based company Hillandale caravans.

He also leaves a sister, Joyce Clark, 62, nephew, David Clark, 39, and niece Kate Clark, 31.

## Crime commissioner hits back on deputy

WORCESTERSHIRE'S new police and crime commissioner hit back at calls for him to go after two months in the post.

A motion of no confidence in Bill Longmore and his deputy Barrie Sheldon is being sought by the Labour group on Worcestershire County Council on Thursday. They are unhappy about him appointing Mr Sheldon, his election agent, as his £50,000-a-year deputy, against police and crime commissioner panel advice.

Mr Longmore said most Commissioners had made deputy or assistant appointments by personal selection. The process he followed was lawful and proper, although the panel would have preferred he held an open process.

He added: "The body charged with scrutinising my actions, the Police and Crime Panel, which has been critical also of my choice of Deputy, supported the view that a Deputy was necessary. I totally refute the allegation, which some have made that my choice of Mr Sheldon was because of long-held friendship and not based on merit."

## Work under way on £2.6m revamp of historic park

CONSTRUCTION work is under way on a long-awaited £2.6 million revamp of Dudley's historic Priory Park.

The pavilion will be extended to provide a modern visitor centre offering educational and community facilities. It will have new public toilets and act as a base for a park ranger.

Work, including new lighting for the old Priory ruins, is expected to be completed by summer. Trees are being planted, paths repaired and new signs installed.

There will also be resurfacing of the football pitch and bowling green after The Friends of the Priory Park and Green and Dudley Council applied for just under £1.8m of Heritage Lottery Fund cash.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said it would enable them to preserve and restore a beautiful green space valued by the community. "We would like to thank everyone for their patience while we undertake this important work at the park," she added.

## Safe Places plan launch

YOUNG people with a learning disability in Kidderminster designed a public safety scheme giving greater access to facilities and services.

It is part of learning disability charity Mencap's project, Changemakers.

The group, aged 17-24, members of Our Way Self Advocacy Group, set up Safe Places in and around Kidderminster with business and police support.

It will be officially launched on January 25 at Our Way Self Advocacy, Church Road.

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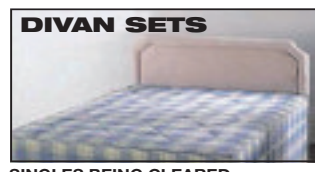
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THE Isle of Wight is England's second smallest county yet it has a unique atmosphere all of its own.

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One of the highlights of this short break will be the visit to the stunning seaside retreat of Osborne House (pictured) Queen Victoria's favourite holiday home.

Take time to visit Swiss Cottage – a miniature chalet built for the royal children or take a stroll through the Victorian Walled Garden. Also included is a visit to Queen Victoria's private beach, which has been opened to the public for the first time.

Trips are also made to Newport, Ryde, Godshill, Yarmouth and Alum Bay.

Newport is the island's capital and busiest shopping centre with its Georgian and Victorian architecture. Evidence of the town's history can be seen in the narrow back streets, wide squares and riverside quay.

In Ryde you can walk along the country's second largest pier, see charming thatched roofs in the village of Godshill, and enjoy the atmosphere of the picture-postcard small fishing town of Yarmouth and in Alum Bay take in the famous brightly coloured sandstone cliffs.

### INFO

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
- Visits to Yarmouth, Alum Bay, Godshill, Newport and Ryde
- Optional excursion to Carisbrooke Castle
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Spalding Flower Parade and Barnsdale Gardens

Two days departing May 4

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- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Spalding Flower Parade
- Entrance to Geoff Hamilton's Barnsdale Gardens
- Visit to Stamford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Monet's Garden Rouen and Paris

Four days departing May 17, Aug 2, Oct 18

★ **PRICE FROM £169.95**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Giverny including admission to Monet's House and Gardens
- Visits to Rouen and Paris
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplements apply

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Two days departing April 26

★ **PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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Please note: the "from" price and price bands vary for each show  
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- Return flights
- Six nights room-only hotel accommodation
- Full day visits to Manhattan and Washington DC
- Two nights to explore Niagara Falls
- Morning visit to Philadelphia with a guided city tour
- Optional excursions offered
- Fully escorted by a tour manager in the USA
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

## London Eye and River Thames cruise

Two days selected weekend departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £129.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Flight on the London Eye
- Cruise on the River Thames
- Free time in London
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- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Bletchley Park – The secrets of war

Two days departing April 27 and August 10

★ **PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park including a guided walking tour
- Visit to Oxford
- Optional excursion to Blenheim Palace
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Belfast and the Titanic Experience

Four days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £265**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to the Titanic Experience
- Half-day guided city tour
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

## Windermere and Coniston Cruise and Steam

Four days departing April 19

★ **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Cruise on Lake Coniston aboard steam Yacht Gondola
- Single journey on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
- Cruise on Lake Windermere
- Entrance to Holker Hall
- Visits to Keswick, Coniston, Ambleside and Kendal
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Spring Gardens of Kew and Hampton Court Palace Gardens

Two days departing April 13

★ **PRICE FROM £115**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Kew Gardens and Xstrata Treetop Walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace Gardens
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Classical Spain

Seven days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £499**

- Return flights
- Six nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tours of Seville and the Alhambra Palace in Granada
- Visits to Cordoba and Ronda
- Services of a tour manager
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# What's On! Halesowen

## Dudley Town Hall

COMEDY legend Ken Dodd is bringing his Happiness Show to Dudley town hall on Saturday, March 9.

For those who fancy a long night of laughter the show starts 7pm and tickets are £18 and £20.

THE best of Birmingham features Jasper Carrot, Bev Bevan of 80s superband ELO, Trevor Burton from The Move, Geoff Burton of the Rockin Berries, Joy Strachan-Brain and Danny King plus The Bev Bevan Band.

The show on Thursday, April 11 promises a night of great music, anecdotes and laughter from 7.30pm. Tickets are £25.00.

LEGENDS of Irish folk music The Fureys & Davey Arthur will be playing a special St Patrick's weekend concert on Saturday March 16.

The Fureys have been entertaining audiences around the world for more than 30 years and have had hits with When You Were Sweet 16 and The Green Fields of France.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20.

THE Jive Aces are the UK's top Jive & Swing band. The six piece group have performed all over the world.

The Jive Aces are renowned for their high energy Jive music and spectacular stage show which they will perform on Tuesday, March 12 from 2pm. Tickets are £11.00.

For more information contact [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) or call 01384 815577.

# Silly sausage Harry is back for sizzling show

**HARRY Hill has not done a live stand-up tour for six years. Now the comedian is back on the road – and it has been well worth the wait.**

In Sausage Time, the massive-collared comic returns with a show that dazzles on every level. For instance, it pledges to give us absolute proof that God exists, provides a section for Tongans, showcases the legendary Stouffer the Cat and proffers a debut solo stand-up spot to Harry's son Gary, best known for his role as Alan Sugar in Harry Hill's TV Burp.

## Slapstick

We are also promised performances by the show band, The Harrys, the whistler-of-chart-hits grandson Sam and an all-singing, all-dancing finale. Oh, and a giant sausage. One thing we should anticipate above all else is a wonderful sense of silliness.

"There's never a serious agenda to my comedy," said Harry. "I use a lot of slapstick and a lot of silly wordplay and puns."

"The show doesn't have an overall theme. It's just a load of silly stuff."

The comic has been doing warm-up shows and has relished the experience of performing live again. "I've loved it," he said. "It gives you such a buzz. Hearing laughter is such an exciting feeling."

Harry added that, after the long-winded process of making TV shows,

stand-up offers more freedom. "Stand-up is so immediate. You can have an idea in the morning and get a laugh for it in the evening. No-one else can tell you what to do, apart from the audience. The audience is the ultimate arbiter."

The comedian, who has won multiple BAFTA and British Comedy Awards, said he had no regrets after quitting TV Burp after 11 years.

"At the end of that last show, all the production team were crying but I went back to my dressing room and felt like a weight had been lifted."

"The closest equivalent was when I gave up medicine."

Sausage Time is at the New Alexandra Theatre on February 26 and 27. Tickets are £31.



Harry Hill is returning to stand-up and, above, the TV Burp entertainer is seen with the legendary Stouffer the Cat

## Comedy that has a cutting edge

Stourbridge Town hall is holding another of its monthly comedy events which showcases new and established talent.

The show will feature the best up-and-coming talent from all over the UK before they hit the big time, giving audiences the chance to see cutting edge.

Previous comedians that have played the venue include Alan Carr, Patrick Monaghan, Stephen K Amos, Reginald D Hunter and Hal Crutenden.

Please be advised the show will contain Adult material which is not suitable for under 18s.

For more information contact Stourbridge Town Hall or visit [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk).

## Cinderella panto at the town hall

STOURBRIDGE Pantomime Company has been producing pantomimes for more than 40 years and their latest is Cinderella.

Cinderella will be performed between January 19 and 26 at the Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre.

Tickets can be bought from the ticket secretary on 01384 836 963 or via [www.stourbridgepanto.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgepanto.co.uk).

## Fundraiser night

JB'S Nightclub on Castle Hill, Dudley is holding a fundraiser night for Dudley Hippodrome. The event features local bands and begins at 7.30pm on Friday January 25.

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 19.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

**Live Snooker: The Masters BBC2, 4.30pm**  
Hazel Irvine presents the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed. Shaun Murphy prevailed over two-time champion John Higgins with a 6-4 victory in last year's concluding semi-final, earning him a chance to claim the title in a contest against Neil Robertson. However, it was the Thunder from Down Under who went on to win the prestigious trophy. This year's draw meant that Murphy and Robertson could have met in the last four once again.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Good Cook. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Snooker: The Masters. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.30 Animal Antics. 6.00 Richard Hammond's Secret Service.** The hidden-camera show features Bill Oddie destroying a woman's garden as he presents a new TV programme and the people of Oxford being subjected to a dodgy lie-detector test.  
**6.45 Britain's Brightest.** Clare Balding hosts the game show, featuring a challenge in which two players are locked in identical rooms and have to solve the puzzles inside to blow the doors off.  
**8.00 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize.  
**8.50 Casualty.** Jordan is desperate to keep Yvonne on life support even as her condition deteriorates – until another patient forces him to reconsider his decision. A man steals from the ED.  
**9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care. (R)  
**10.10 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day.** Including West Ham United v Queens Park Rangers; National Lottery Update.  
**11.50 The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.  
**1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 Close. 6.30 Film: Flight from Freedom.** (1943) Drama, starring Rosalind Russell. **8.10 Film: Sister Kenny.** (1946) A nurse discovers a treatment for polio, but struggles to convince the medical establishment that it will work. Fact-based drama, starring Rosalind Russell and Alexander Knox. **10.00 A History of Britain** by Simon Schama. (R)  
**11.00 Meet the Ancestors.** (R) Map Man. **12.00 Indian Food Made Easy.** (R) **12.30 Talking Pictures. 1.20 Film: The Moon Is Blue.** (1953) Comedy, starring Maggie McNamara. **3.00 Coast.** (R) **3.30 Flog It!** (R) **4.30 Live Snooker: The Masters.** Concluding coverage of the first semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London. **5.30 Winterview.** The Big Freeze, 1963.  
**6.30 Dad's Army.** Capt Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. (R)  
**7.00 Live Snooker: The Masters.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the line-up for the final will be confirmed.  
**10.30 Film: Doubt.** (2008) A disciplinarian nun at a Catholic school suspects a charismatic priest of behaving inappropriately with a student. Drama, with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams.  
**12.10 Snooker Extra.** Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the first Masters semi-final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the first entrant for the final was decided over the best of 11 frames.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV: Handy Manny. 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 The Hive.** (R) **6.35 The Hive.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.55 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.15 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.30 Almost Naked Animals.** (R) **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.30 Victorious.** (R) **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 Saturday Cookbook.** (R) **12.20 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **1.35 My Tasty Travels** with Lyndia Bellingham. (R) **2.35 Dinner Date.** (R) **3.35 River Monsters.** (R) **4.05 Film: Garfield.** (2004) **5.30 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.00 New You've Been Framed!** Top 100 Weddings. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips.  
**7.00 Splash!** Five more celebrities, including Linda Barker, Dom Joly, Anthony Ogogo and Tina Malone, learn how to dive with Tom Daley as they battle for two places in next week's semi-final.  
**8.30 Take Me Out.** An accountant, a mixologist, a sales assistant and a historian enter the love lift in the hope of impressing 30 single women.  
**9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Kimberley Walsh and Madness.  
**10.45 ITV News: Weather. 11.00 Film: The Game.** (1997) Thriller, with Michael Douglas.  
**1.20 The Store. 2.50 In Plain Sight.** (R) **3.30 Pushing Daisies.** (R) **4.15 ITV Nightscreen.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 The Hoobs.** (R) **7.00 Beach Volleyball.** **8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 Undercover Boss Australia.** (R) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 4.10 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. 4.40 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. 5.10 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland. 5.45 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland.**  
**6.10 Celebrity Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** Comedian Joe Rooney annoys Celia Holman-Lee by printing the menu for his dinner in five languages, and as the evening draws to a close, the week's winner is revealed.  
**6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.10 Thought.tv. 7.15 Film: The Simpsons Movie.** (2007) Springfield faces destruction after pollution caused by Homer provokes the wrath of the US government. Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta.  
**9.00 World Without End.** A plan to rebuild the bridge is hampered by the new Lord of Wileigh, while Queen Isabella carries out a crafty scheme to persuade the king to declare war on her enemies.  
**10.00 Film: Saving Private Ryan.** (1998) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks.  
**1.15 Film: Exit Through the Gift Shop.** (2010) **2.40 Hollywood. 4.50 Countdown.** (R) **5.35 Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.05 Celebrity Big Brother: Eviction.** (R) **12.00 The Gadget Show.** (R) **1.05 Film: Mister Roberts.** (1955) **3.25 Film: Operation Crossbow.** (1965) **5.45 Film: Operation Daybreak.** (1975) **7.50 5 News Weekend. 7.55 NCIS.** Gibbs revisits his home town to investigate an assault that left one marine dead and another badly injured – and enlists the help of his estranged father to identify the assailant. (R)  
**8.50 NCIS.** A serial killer begins posting footage of his crimes online – and as the agents investigate, they realise that each film contains visual clues to the identity of the next victim. (R)  
**9.45 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.  
**10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side.** Emma Willis presents the CBB companion show, including celebrity guests' thoughts on the latest developments and behind-the-scenes insights.  
**11.45 Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs.** Stewart Lee, Craig Hill and Aziz Ansari perform in front of audiences at Montreal's renowned Just for Laughs festival. (R)  
**12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge.** (R) **4.25 Great Artists.** (R) **4.50 County Secrets.** (R) **5.00 Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Merlin 7.45 Doctor Who 8.40 Top Gear 9.45 Film: Con Air** (1997) **11.30 Family Guy**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 8.00 A History of Art in Three Colours 9.00 Borgen 11.00 Top of the Pops: 1978 11.30 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978**  
**ITV2**  
**3.45 You've Been Framed! 5.45 Film: Babe** (1995) **7.35 Film: The Incredible Hulk** (2008) A scientist who turns into a monster when angry is hunted by a general who wants to use him as a weapon. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton, Tim Roth and Liv Ullmann. Including FYI Daily. **9.45 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.30 Fake Reaction 11.15 Film: Gladiator** (2000)  
**ITV3**  
**2.50 A Touch of Frost 4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis**  
**ITV4**  
**3.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations.** South Africa v Cape Verde (Kick-off 4.00pm) **6.15 20 Goals That Shook the World 7.15 Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg** (1967) **9.30 Film: Space Cowboys** (2000)  
**E4**  
**3.40 Rules of Engagement 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Happy Endings 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: Because I Said So** (2007) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory 11.55 The Cleveland Show**  
**Film4**  
**3.10 One Million Years BC** (1966) **5.10 MirrorMask** (2005) **7.05 The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising** (2007) **9.00 10 Things I Hate About You** (1999) **10.55 The Keep** (1983)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 20.01.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Tony Robinson

**Time Team**  
**Channel 4, 5.25pm**  
After almost 20 years on the box, Tony Robinson's hit archaeology show will soon be history itself, but first there's a chance to enjoy this dip into the past with Hektor Rous, the son of "Aussie Earl" Keith Rous. He is keen to piece together the mysterious history of the family's Tudor country home in Suffolk. There's no shortage of intriguing stories buried in its past, such as the tale of a drunken butler who supposedly set fire to Henham Hall's wine cellar in 1773, sending the place up in flames. Can Tony and the team piece together the family home's history.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast**, 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Countryfile. (R) 1.20 Bargain Hunt. 2.20 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.20 Chatsworth. (R) 4.20 Lifestyle. 4.30 Songs of Praise. 5.05 Africa. (R) 6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.  
6.30 **Blandings**. Connie hires a personal secretary (David Walliams) to get the house in order for a visit from the Schoonmakers – but Freddie ruins the occasion with his latest money-making scheme.  
7.00 **Countryfile**. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury head to Exmoor, learning about Georgian photographer Alfred Vowles and the origins of the 1969 novel Lorna Doone.  
8.00 **Call the Midwife**. New series. The return of the drama sees Jenny concerned about a mum-to-be involved in an abusive marriage, while Trixie and Sister Evangelina deliver a baby on board a cargo ship.  
9.00 **Ripper Street**. The clearing of a slum for a new railway reveals a gruesome murder, leading the team to a web of conspiracy involving a local councillor, an asylum doctor and Long Susan.  
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.  
10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Including Chelsea v Arsenal.  
11.25 **Room 101 – Extra Storage**. With Greg Davies, Ben Fogle and Janet Street-Porter.  
12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 News.

## BBC2

**6.00 Close**. 6.55 **Film**: None But the Lonely Heart. (1944) Drama, starring Cary Grant. 8.45 **Life in a Cottage Garden** with Carol Klein. (R) 9.15 A to Z of TV Gardening. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 12.00 EastEnders. (R) 1.55 Live Snooker: The Masters. Coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London. 4.45 Ski Sunday. 5.30 Flog It!  
6.30 **Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey**. The planet's yearly trip around the sun and the effects it has on its inhabitants, beginning by covering the period from July to the winter solstice in December. (R)  
7.30 **Faithful Towers**. A party of German guests comes to stay and Basil resolves to ensure everyone is on their best behaviour. Last in the series. (R)  
8.00 **Live Snooker: The Masters**. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion.  
11.00 **Film: There Will Be Blood**. (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.  
1.30 Sign Zone: Holby City. Jac jeopardises her relationship with Jonny. Serena finds her position threatened by a competitor, and Chrissie has a health scare but is reluctant to confide in Sacha. (R)  
2.30 **Who Do You Think You Are?** Singer Annie Lennox researches her ancestry. (R) 3.30 **Close**.

## ITV

**6.00 City**: Handy Manny. 6.10 Handy Manny. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.15 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) 8.05 Rated A for Awesome. 8.15 Rated A for Awesome. 8.30 Big Time Rush. 9.00 The Aquabats Super Show. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 There's No Taste Like Home. (R) 10.30 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 11.30 May the Best House Win Live in France. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 Countryfile. 12.55 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 1.55 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 2.55 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.55 **Film**: Nanny McPhee. (2005) 5.45 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.00 **ITV News**: Weather. 6.15 **Dancing on Ice**. The 10 remaining stars go head to head in duels, with the judges deciding which of the couples is safe and who will require public votes to help them avoid the skate-off. 7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes**. With Paralympic champion Jonnie Peacock and Loose Women's Sherrie Hewson. 8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off**. The two lowest-scoring couples compete. 9.00 **Mr Selfridge**. Harry leaves some of his staff a little shocked when he decides to set up a beauty counter near the front entrance, while Victor has a rival for Agnes's affections. 10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; Weather. 10.15 **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum**. (2007) Thriller, starring Matt Damon. 12.15 The Store. 2.20 Monk. (R) 3.00 **ITV Nightscreen**.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00 The Treacle People**. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Will & Grace. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.05 The Simpsons. (R) 1.35 The Simpsons. (R) 2.05 **Film**: Speed 2: Cruise Control. (1997) 4.25 Deal or No Deal. 5.25 **Team Team**. 6.25 **Channel 4 News**. 6.55 **Thought...tv**. Members of the public reflect on religious issues. 7.00 **Come Dine with Me**. Fitness fanatic Lindsey Berry, saleswoman Marc McAdam, hairdresser Julie Wall and Michael Webster, former butler to the Queen, take up the dinner party challenge in the Lake District. 8.00 **The Lake**. The staff encounter several problems as they prepare for Ladies' Night, and one of the bedrooms receives a last-minute makeover as the inspector returns to assess the Grosvenor. 9.00 **Film: It's Complicated**. (2009) Premiere. A divorced couple are reunited at their son's college graduation, and begin a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. 11.20 **Rude Tube: Welcome to 2013**. Alex Zane presents 100 memorable internet clips. (R) 1.10 **Film**: Buffy the Vampire Slayer. (1992) 2.40 Smallville. (R) 3.20 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.10 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.05 Countdown. (R) 5.50 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R) 5.55 Sall Mali. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Olive the Ostrich. (R) 6.50 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Teeny Antics. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jamm. 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 12.15 **Film**: Loch Ness. (1996) 2.10 **Film**: Muppets from Space. (1999) 4.00 **Film**: Teen Wolf. (1985) 5.50 **Film**: Pearl Harbor. (2001) 8.55 **5 News Weekend**. 9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother**. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt. 10.00 **Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Side**. Emma Willis and her guests discuss how the housemates are getting on. 11.00 **Film: The House Bunny**. (2008) Comedy, starring Anna Faris, Colin Hanks, Emma Stone and Kat Dennings. 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.25 Great Artists. (R) 4.50 Country Secrets. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.40 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes  
7.05 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 7.50 **Film**: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) 10.00 Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents 11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
7.00 Magnificent Machines: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car 8.00 **Film**: In Which We Serve (1942) 9.50 Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy 10.50 **Film**: Lebanon (2009)  
**ITV2**  
3.50 Take Me Out 5.00 Take Me Out – The Gossip 5.45 **Film**: Back to the Future (1985) 8.00 You've Been Framed! 9.00 The Maguluf Weekender 10.00 **Film**: Haliboy II: The Golden Army (2008)  
**ITV3**  
3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot 5.35 Murder, She Wrote 6.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.00 **Film**: Dangerous Liaisons (1988)  
**ITV4**  
2.30 **Film**: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) 5.30 Live Africa Cup of Nations. 8.30 Police, Camera, Action! 9.00 **Film**: Barb Wire (1996) 11.00 **Film**: Green Street (2005)  
**E4**  
5.00 Revenge 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 New Girl 8.00 **Film**: Iron Man (2008) 10.25 The New Normal 10.55 2 Broke Girls 11.20 My Mad Fat Diary  
**Film4**  
3.00 Carry On Cabby (1963) 4.50 Aquamarine (2006) 6.55 Monster-in-Law (2005) 9.00 Road to Perdition (2002) Depression-era gangster drama, starring Tom Hanks. 11.20 Lolita (1997)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### Gun Fury, Channel 4, 1pm

A wealthy rancher and his fiancée take the stagecoach to California, where they intend to start a new life in the wake of the Civil War. However, during the journey an ex-Confederate outlaw and his gang of thugs attack the coach and kidnap the bride-to-be. Distraught and wounded, the rancher sets out to rescue her and punish her abductors. Western, with Rock Hudson, Donna Reed, Lee Marvin and Phil Carey. (1953)

#### TUESDAY

##### Greenfingers, BBC1, 11.30pm

Inmates at an open prison discover a passion for gardening and create a patch that attracts the attention of a haughty celebrity horticulturalist, who encourages them to compete in a prestigious competition at Hampton Court. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren, Clive Owen, David Kelly, Warren Clarke and Natasha Little. (2000)

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Alien Hunter, Channel 5, 11.30pm

A communications expert heads for an isolated research station in the Antarctic, where strange radio signals have been detected coming from an object in the ice. The scientists succeed in breaking the artefact open, unleashing a strange alien creature and a flesh-eating virus that endangers all life on Earth. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader, Janine Eser and John Lynch. (2003)



Greenfingers, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.30pm

#### THURSDAY

##### Presumed Innocent, BBC1, 12.20am

A deputy prosecutor is drawn into an affair with a seductive colleague, but she drops him when he fails to live up to her ambitions. However, when she is found dead, he is investigated under suspicion of raping and murdering her – and as a wealth of evidence piles up, he struggles to clear his name. Mystery thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Greta Scacchi, Brian Dennehy, Bonnie Bedelia and Raul Julia. (1990)

#### FRIDAY

##### Coogan's Bluff, ITV, 10.35pm

An Arizona sheriff is sent to New York to bring an imprisoned murderer back to stand trial. However, when the killer escapes, the southern lawman employs Wild West methods to recapture him, antagonising the city's police in the process. Don Siegel's crime drama, starring Clint Eastwood, Lee J Cobb, Don Stroud and Susan Clark. (1968)

### Pick of the Week

## Stars shine bright in a night of celebration

**W**e love the Oscars, Golden Globes and Emmys – the Baftas aren't half-bad either. But our favourite film or TV-related gong-giving ceremony of all has to be The National Television Awards.

Why? The answer to that is simple: because every award is voted for by the people who really count – those of us who tune in at home.

Forget the critics or the contributors' fellow cast and crew members, it's the folk who watch the shows whose opinions count the most, because without them, there would be no programmes to start off with.

So if your favourite doesn't bag a trophy on the night, you only have yourself to blame for not backing them.

The people receiving them also rate the ceremony highly, as executive producer Kim Turberville of Indigo Television, who make the National Television Awards for ITV, says:

"Viewers are the bedrock of our show because all the winners are chosen by the public. So I hope they will respond to our call to action again

this year in this quest to discover the nation's favourite stars and shows.

"The NTA trophy is the award that says people love what you do. That's why it means so much to win one."

This year, the NTAs themselves have something to celebrate, having come of age. Yes, this will be the 18th time the ceremony has taken place, and as a result, it promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

It's certainly going to be very exciting indeed, with many of the categories just too close to call.

Making its debut in the Factual Entertainment slot is The Great British Bake-Off, and you wouldn't bet against it bagging a prize.

Arguably the most intriguing battle comes in Drama, where writer Steven Moffat's two productions, Doctor Who and Sherlock, go head-to-head; their stars, Matt Smith and Benedict Cumberbatch, are also vying for the Drama Performance: Male gong.

However, both shows could miss out if the mighty Downton Abbey retains its crown, or if fans of Merlin, in their sorrow of it finally drawing to a

close at Christmas, decide to give it the ultimate farewell – one of those nice, shiny awards.

The Drama Performance: Female nominees are an intriguing bunch too. The smart money is on Sheridan Smith for her outstanding performance as a Great Train Robber's wife in Mrs Biggs, but Miranda Hart could surprise everyone – after all, she's been rather impressive in Call The Midwife.

Other awards being given on the night will be for Comedy Panel Show, Talk Show, Factual Programme, Situation Comedy, Serial Drama, Serial Drama Performance, Reality Programme, Newcomer, Entertainment Programme and Entertainment Presenter.

Dermot O'Leary hosts the ceremony from the O2 Arena in London, and watch out for his show-stopping entrance, which apparently features a very special dance partner indeed.

We're not revealing the identity of who (or what) that will be – but if you think really hard, we bet you can guess...



The National Television Awards 2013, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Wild Things

##### Channel 4, 8.30pm

Does garden designer Chris Myers have the best job in the world? Actually no, that claim well and truly went the 'caretaker' of the Great Barrier Reef a couple of years ago. However, Chris's comes a close second – he spends his time in the fresh air, among the birds, bees, and flowers – what's not to love? Chris, who's a Royal Horticultural Society gold medalist and garden designer, is joined by one of our top botanists, Dr Trevor Dines, lichenologist Sally Eaton, and his trusty Labrador Lottie. First up, the teams head to Birmingham and they start looking for wild things amid the heart of its road transport network. Why? Because in the last 50 years, these roads have become Britain's latest nature reserve.

#### TUESDAY

##### Great Houses with Julian Fellowes

##### ITV, 9pm

Think of actor-turned-screenwriter Julian Fellowes and what springs to mind? Probably the productions he's created, in particular Downton Abbey and Gosford Park. If you've seen them, you'll probably have noticed that at the centre of both is a very posh house indeed, and Fellowes has created compelling characters who inhabit them. But now he's turning his attention to the real people who live in these places. This two-part documentary sees the Oscar-winning writer visit Goodwood House in West Sussex and Cambridgeshire's Burgley House to unearth their remarkable histories. "These are not just houses for

posh people to live in," says Julian, "their history belongs to all of us."

#### Death in Paradise

##### BBC1, 9pm

Like Midsomer Murders, the format for this winning comedy drama is simple enough: a series of nefarious crimes are committed in an idyllic setting, and we at home have to guess who did it before buttoned-up English DI Richard Poole (Miller). When the body of Valerie Dupree is discovered floating in the pool of a luxury cosmetic clinic by swimmer Jayne Smythe (Cherie Lunghi), several things point to suicide. However, Poole believes Ms Dupree was murdered. The whole thing is handled with a likeable lightness of touch, and Miller proves as engaging as those glorious Guadeloupe backdrops. Series regulars Don Warrington and Sara Martins star alongside James Fleet and Emma Pierson.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Charley Boorman's South African Adventure

##### Channel 5, 8pm

Join the eponymous adventurer on the ride of a lifetime as he journeys through South Africa on his trusty BMW motorbike. In search of thrills and excitement, this week Charley samples South African life from three differing perspectives – in the air, deep below ground and in the bush. He takes to the skies as he learns how to para-jet and then

even tries his hand at gold mining underground; detonating the dynamite himself in search of the precious metal. He then heads into the bush getting up close and personal to Africa's greatest wild animals also enjoying some traditional dinners around the campfire. Follow his footsteps as Africa plays host to his most daring adventure yet.

#### THURSDAY

##### Silent Witness

##### BBC1, 9pm

Given the generic first 30 seconds of this week's episode, you might feel the urge to switch over, but if you like slick post-watershed dramas stick with it, because the tale of a prostitute's run-in with a mysterious pimp-bashing copper proves to be disturbingly compelling. Following the opening credits, the forensic team are called in when Joanne Henderson, a pub landlady is stabbed to death and has her little finger cut off. Although Leo and Jack collect mounting evidence that her husband was responsible, Nikki believes the man is innocent. After he is charged with the crime, she faces a race against the clock to convince her colleagues the woman was the latest victim of a serial killer.



Death in Paradise, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

#### FRIDAY

##### Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

##### Channel 5, 9pm

Claire Richards, Frankie Dettori and Gillian Telford are among those who have been basking in the camera's spotlight, while The Hills' Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt; models Lacey Banghard and Paula Hamilton; Neil 'Razor' Ruddock; The X Factor's beloved loser Ryan Clark, and Sam Robertson (from E4 comedy Beaver Falls) have also enjoyed time in the famous abode. Millions of Neighbours fans rooted for Ryan Maloney, while Heartbeat and The Royal veteran Tricia Penrose also has a solid fanbase, but by now you'll know who's made it through to this stage and who will be licking their wounds. Expect host Brian Dowling to grill the winner in what promises to be a glitzy finale.

#### The Last Leg

##### Channel 4, 9.30pm

This show first won plaudits during the Paralympic Games, when its host, Adam Hills, and his colleagues Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, offered an intelligent and alternative commentary on the day's events. A non-sporting version of the show was hinted at back in October when Syeda Irtizaali, Channel 4's entertainment commissioning editor, said: "We are working on a number of great ideas that will help push the show forward from its Paralympic origins into a broad, intelligent and entertaining series. I'm hugely looking forward to working again with Adam, Alex and Josh." Clearly they've found a format that works, because the trio will be fronting it for the next eight weeks – and we can't wait to see how it turns out.



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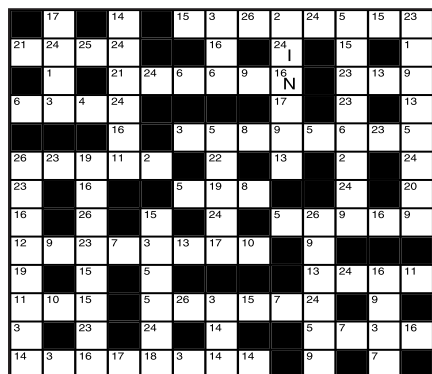
## What's On!

## Brain Gym

No.204

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

O	E	P	F	L	Q	G	X	V	D	B	C	U
N	I	T	K	M	R	Z	S	A	H	W	Y	J

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## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Take one's leave of French region (6)
4. Just the implement for one who intends to have a row! (6)
- 9 and 13 Dn. When a man is doing this, the charge is not to be sneezed at! (6,7,3,4)
10. Such a man would like to feel the draught! (7)
11. Less industrious layabout (5)
12. In the bag a ten-dollar stone (5)
14. Strange steps taken to get vermin (5)
18. Without any company making an advance, we hear (5)
19. A little hut and French piece of furniture (7)
21. It ensures that the eldest will succeed (13)
22. There is a change about one word that indicates an alternative (6)
23. They cut parts of the propeller (6)

## Down

1. Posted to army bases, maybe (6)
2. An expert at reading the dials! (13)
3. Used by those who take steps to raise their position (5)
5. Publicise the route needed for a flying concern (7)
6. Being able to speak two languages is deceitful (6-7)
7. Provide some earnest counsel, tho' Rex must be wrong (6)
8. Checks parts of the rigging (5)
13. See 9 Across
15. Take a piece of balsam, please - just a taste (6)
16. Wind a kind of thread (5)
17. Emphasise what worried people experience (6)
20. Flight inside the beak one can see a fish (5)

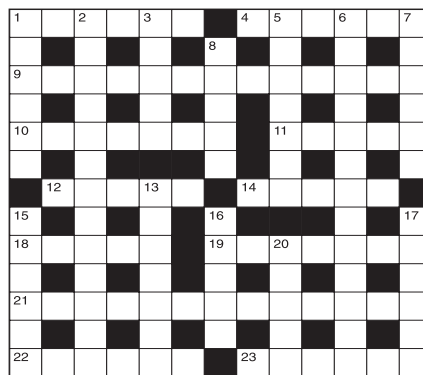
## Quick Clues:

## Across

1. Meal (6)
4. Peril (6)
9. Distance round (13)
10. Go before (7)
11. Tend (5)
12. Decree (5)
14. Did business (5)
18. Happen (5)
19. Swiss lake (7)
21. Receptacle for drossers (6,7)
22. Straight (6)
23. Call to help (6)

## Down

1. Formula (6)
2. Upright (13)
3. Relish (5)
5. Dispose (7)
6. Spanish dictator (7,6)
7. Staggered (6)
8. Bid (5)
13. Lasting a long time (7)
15. Took off (6)
16. Lax (5)
17. Kindly (6)
20. Hut (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Out of spirits; 7 Canon; 8 Canto; 9 Bud; 10 Simpleton; 11 Lariat; 12 Timbre; 15 Narrating; 17 Lea; 18 Etude; 19 Imply; 21 Reassurances. Down: 1 Overbalances; 2 Fan; 3 Panama; 4 Recalling; 5 Tenet; 6 Countenances; 7 Cedar; 10 Seafarers; 13 Billy; 14 Finite; 16 Rouse; 20 Pat. QUICK - Across: 1 Invertebrate; 7 Might; 8 Query; 9 Pit; 10 Architect; 11 Refuse; 15 Effective; 17 Ado; 18 China; 19 Pilot; 21 Intelligibly. Down: 1 Inexperience; 2 Rig; 3 Entice; 4 Requisite; 5 There; 6 Mysteriously; 7 Motif; 10 Associate; 13 Trait; 14 Dispel; 16 Feign; 20 Lag.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

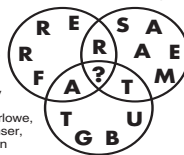
8	1	4	3	2	5	9	7	6
6	2	5	3	7	9	8	4	1
7	9	3	1	4	6	2	8	5
1	7	6	8	5	4	3	9	2
9	5	8	7	3	2	4	1	6
4	3	2	9	6	1	5	7	8
3	6	9	5	8	7	1	2	4
5	4	7	2	1	3	6	8	9
2	8	1	4	9	6	7	5	3

	4				6			
		8	9		3	7		5
1				5			9	
	1						6	9
3			7		6			2
4	8						7	
		4		6				7
5		1	3		7	9		4
		3			5		8	

## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
 The letter represented by the question mark is E. Marlowe, Webster, Spenser, all early modern playwrights.



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**£750 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD

A unfurnished semi detached house, in a well sought after location, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Living Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Driveway Parking. EPC rating = E

**£625 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, TANHOUSE LANE

Ideally located for Colley Lane Primary School, local shops in Cooley Gate, bus routes to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Merry Hill, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring 3 good size bedrooms with 2 having fitted wardrobes, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size lounges, well worth a viewing. EPC rating = C

**£600 PCM**



#### MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

A Lovely And Spacious Unfurnished Modern Townhouse. Within Yards Of Merry Hill Shopping Centre. Comprising Of: Gas Central Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Dining Room/Study, Lounge, House Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room, Allocated Parking Space. Available Immediately. EPC rating = C

**£595 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, BARRS ROAD

An End Terraced Unfurnished Property, Recently Part Refurbished To A High Standard And Situated In A Popular Residential Area. Comprising Of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking With Rear Garden. With The Advantage Of The Water Rates Pre Paid Until March 2013! EPC rating = D

**£595 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, VALLEY ROAD

A very nice and welcoming home, this 3 bed house features a spacious lounge with separate dining room, modern kitchen with a freezer, downstairs wc, house bathroom and shower, driveway and well kept gardens to front and rear. EPC rating = D

**£595 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, WASSELL ROAD

A Beautifully Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House Being Much Improved By The Present Vendor Having Accommodation Including Open Plan Kitchen Diner, Attractive Lounge, Three Generous Bedrooms, Refitted Shower Room, Separate WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Block Paved Driveway And Rear Gardens. EPC rating = D

**£575 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, PEACHLEY CLOSE

Undergone a complete refurbishment with a brand new kitchen, brand new bathroom, new decoration, is this detached bungalow which is centrally located to Halesowen and within walking distance to shops and bus routes to Stourbridge and Birmingham. Featuring 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, driveway parking. A rare opportunity to rent a bungalow which is not to be missed. EPC rating = D

**£550 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated in this popular residential area, is this top floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprising of: two bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth an inspection. EPC rating = B

**£525 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD

Situated in popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town, is this modern furnished first floor apartment comprising of: two bedrooms, lounge, and fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens. EPC rating = E

**£525 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located Close To Stourbridge Town Centre And Stourbridge Junction Train Centre, Is This Unfurnished Newly Decorated Mid Terraced House, Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen With Dining Area, Cozy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, driveway parking, With Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space To Front. EPC rating = D

**£525 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A Three Bedroom Link Detached House Within Walking Distance To Lye Shops, Buses And Train Station, Comprising Of: Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms And Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden With Patio, Blocked Paved Driveway For Two Cars. Available Immediately. EPC rating = F

**£495 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HARDEN COURT

Situated In Popular Residential Area Of Halesowen, With Easy Access To Buses To The Town, Is This Part Furnished First Floor Apartment Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With A Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage Parking, Communal Gardens. EPC rating = C

**£495 PCM**



#### NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, one double bedroom and one single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. EPC rating = D

**£475 PCM**



#### BRIARLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Been Freshly Redecorated And Within A 5 Minutes Drive Of Briarley Hill Town Centre And Few Minutes More From Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Is This Unfurnished End Terraced House, Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, 1 With Fitted Wardrobes, House Bathroom With Shower, Nice Sized Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, On Road Parking, No Gardens. EPC rating = C

**£475 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking. EPC rating = C

**£440 PCM**



#### ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens. EPC rating = D

**£425 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

A spacious Part Furnished first floor apartment on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished. Available Immediately. Highly Recommended. EPC rating = F

**£400 PCM**



#### OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished. EPC rating = D

**£400 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on this popular development of Homer Hill, Located close to Cradley Heath train station, bus route to Halesowen and Merry Hill, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower. A property not to be missed. EPC rating = D

**£395 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

Available Is This Unfurnished Ground Floor Apartment Which Is Well Presented Throughout, Within Walking Distance To Cradley Heath Train Station, comprising Of: Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom With Shower, One Bedroom With Built In Wardrobes, En Block Garage. EPC rating = E

**£380 PCM**

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# A semi-detached with conservatory

**DESCRIBED by agents as immaculately presented, this three bedroom semi-detached house in Lincoln Road, West Bromwich, is for sale priced at £110,000.**

It benefits from double glazing and central heating, off road parking and front and rear gardens.

Accommodation comprises of reception room, kitchen diner, conservatory, three bedrooms and upstairs bathroom.

On the ground floor the 14ft 3in by 12ft 8in lounge has a fireplace with gas coal effect fire and French doors to a kitchen diner which is 17ft 3in by 9ft 10in.

## Garden

It has wall and base units, stainless steel sink with drainer, work surfaces, integrated electric oven with electric hob, cooker hood and plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher.

There is also a conservatory with side doors to the rear garden. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with low level WC, wash hand basin and bath with shower over.

Outside to the front is off road parking. The rear garden has a slatted patio area and steps to a further patio area.

Call estate agent Worton Kelly on 0121 588 5666 for information or to view.



This three-bed semi-detached in Lincoln Road, West Bromwich, is priced at £110,000



The property's modern kitchen/diner contains ample storage in its wall and base units

# Great value homes in the January sale

**BARGAIN-HUNTING** home-buyers can bag an unmissable deal on their perfect property this New Year – if they hurry along to the Taylor Wimpey January Sale at selected developments in the West Midlands.

A limited number of plots at two Taylor Wimpey developments – Saddlers Brook in Rushall, Walsall, and Cedar Drive in Oldbury – have been reduced in price by up to £15,000, providing amazing opportunities for fast-acting purchasers to secure their ideal home for less.

What's more, first-time buyers can take advantage of Taylor Wimpey's easystart shared equity initiative with selected new homes at the leading housebuilder's Primrose Gardens development in Dudley.

Elaine Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "It's not just on the high street that you can bag a brilliant deal in the January Sales – we're celebrating the start of the New Year with some superb special offers of our own.

"Our sensational sale prices are available with a strictly limited selection of properties at participating developments in the West Midlands, so home-hunters who know a bargain when they see one should get in touch before it's too late!"

## Developments

The Taylor Wimpey January Sale is now on at the following developments in the West Midlands:

● Saddlers Brook – Carbridge Lane South, Rushall. Open Thursday to Monday, 10am to 5pm – 0845 672 4132

● Plot 34 – 4-bedroom 'Florence' detached house with flooring throughout plus landscaped rear garden

WAS £244,995, NOW £229,995 – SAVE £15,000



An artist's impression of the three-storey 'Malvern' at Taylor Wimpey's Cedar Drive development in Oldbury

● Plot 55 – 3-bedroom 'Brecon' terraced house  
WAS £171,995, NOW £169,995 – SAVE £2,000

● Cedar Drive – Rood End Road, Oldbury. Open daily, 10am to 5pm – 0845 071 8723

● Plot 56 – 4-bedroom 'Malvern' townhouse  
WAS £168,995, NOW £159,995 – SAVE £9,000

● Plot 97 – 3-bedroom 'Kingsford' terraced house  
WAS £149,995, NOW £145,000 – SAVE £4,995

First-time buyer incentives available at Taylor Wimpey developments in the West Midlands include easystart shared equity, through which eligible homebuyers can purchase selected homes for 85 per cent of their full price,

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● Primrose Gardens – Northfield Road, Netherton, Dudley  
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● Plot 5 – 1-bedroom 'Berrington' coach house  
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● Plot 8 – 2-bedroom 'Woburn' terraced house  
Full price £126,995 – 85 per cent easystart price £107,946

To find out more about the full range of Taylor Wimpey developments across the West Midlands region, call 0121 703 3400 or visit the website at [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids](http://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids)



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## Barrs Road



£140,000

Lounge, dining room and further breakfast room, kitchen. First floor comprises three bedrooms and a family bathroom. 01215507474

## Spring Street



£100,000

Two reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and rear garden. No upward chain. 01215507474

## Rowley Village



£120,000

A semi detached house with lounge, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, drive and garage. 01215507474

## Rowley Regis



£90,000

PUBLIC NOTICE - 18 St James Ave, Rowley Regis, B65 8AH - we are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £90,000 on the property

## The Broadway



£150,000

A three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility area, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage. 01384237313

## Lilac Road



£100,000

Three bedroom property with lounge, extended dining room, kitchen, en-suite from master bedroom, rear garden and garage. 01384237313

## St. James Avenue



£90,000

Acomodation comprising of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, drive, garage, front and rear gardens. 01384237313

## Park Lane East



£80,000

Three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, modern bathroom and rear garden. 01384237313

## Parkes Hall Road



£80,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom. 01384237313

## Park Lane West



£70,000

Mid terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen/diner, lounge, bathroom and rear garden. 01384237313

## Cromwell Street



£70,000

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# MOTURING NEWS AND REVIEWS

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

# A must for bargain hunters



Dacia's Sandero Stepway is certainly turning heads

**DESPITE** being a brand defined by the affordability of its cars, Dacia understands the need for models that give the people what they want. The Sandero Stepway is one of those.

Based on the Sandero hatchback, the Stepway is more of a crossover-type car, riding higher and with a handful of off-roader styling cues to give a more rugged look.

Sales in this sector of the market have been ballooning for the last few years and Dacia would be daft not to get in on the act.

The sub-range is almost identical to that of the Sandero hatch. It's in the company's interests to share parts, platforms and equipment as much as possible, allowing a cheaper price to then be passed on to the consumer.

There are turbocharged 0.9-litre petrol and 1.5-litre diesel engine options with two trim levels, so the Stepway does without the entry-level engine and trim options you can get in the ordinary Sandero. Tested here is the Stepway Laureate 1.5 dCi; the priciest Sandero variant you can buy at a likely £10,795 or so when order books open in the spring.

For around £1,000 less, you can have the gutsy and frugal 898cc turbocharged petrol TCe, which makes it the soundest financial bet for most

buyers. Either way, Dacia predicts a lot of people will go for Laureate spec for its massive value for money.

As well as the 40mm ride height increase over the common-or-garden Sandero which improves accessibility and gives a better view of the road ahead, buyers get smart-looking roof rails, an in-built colour satnav system, cruise control, a speed limiter and reverse-parking sensors. Not the sort of things you normally expect on a sub-£11,000 runabout, but all of them very welcome.

## Impressive

The 89bhp diesel engine is equally impressive on the value front. Based on the cheaper of the two Renault-Nissan alliance small-capacity units (there's also a 1.6 in the group), it produces ample power and only 105g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, which although not hitting the tax-free heights of some of its costlier Renault cousins is still very impressive – and very cheap to run.

One of the parts shared between all Sandero models including the Stepway is the rev counter, which has no red zone and extends past 7,000rpm. The diesel can't reach those engine speeds but pulls well between 1,900rpm and 3,500rpm.

The weight difference between the diesel and the petrol is about 60kg, and all of it rests over the front wheels. The Stepway, with its taller stance, is especially susceptible to the negative effects this

has on the way the car drives, feeling just a little more ponderous around corners and marginally firmer at the front end. A stiffer suspension set-up has been used to account for the extra weight.

But for general biffing around town or country, the diesel Stepway is a thoroughly amiable little partner, happily negotiating steep hills and displaying fine cruising credentials. The only issue is louder-than-average wind noise around the front screen and A-pillars.

Its five-speed gearbox is a bit notchy when locating a new cog and if you place your hand on it, the gear lever can feel wobbly. It's not too noticeable during normal gearshifts though.

A highlight among the practical benefits that the Stepway can claim over the standard Sandero has to be the unpainted plastic trim around the wheel arches, side skirts and bumpers. It helps prevent certain kinds of car park knocks and scrapes from damaging paintwork and offers a cheaper repair solution. Otherwise the car shares the surprisingly spacious boot and ample rear legroom of the Sandero.

Although Dacia has taken an ear-bashing from Euro NCAP over the safety scores its cars are getting, the safety bods are getting a little overzealous with their latest requests for five-star cars – and in isolation the UK-spec Sandero Stepway would get a sound four.

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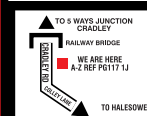
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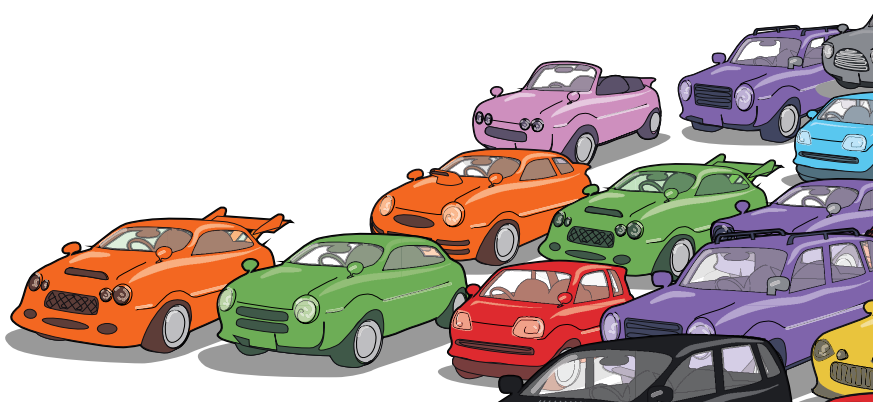
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Black and white short haired  
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Please check gardens, sheds  
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Call 01902 822833 or  
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### personal



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Photo essential (returned).  
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photo appreciated  
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## pets corner

### NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

### A NEW YEAR, NEW START

Ben 6yr old black Lab, good with dogs, children, cats.

Call Lyr old female sharpei cross boxer, lovely friendly

Ellie 2yr old welsh terrier x border collie, tri colour, friendly obedient, good with other dogs/children

Dylan 4yr old black curly labrador, bit nervous, but overweight but lovely

Patch Mostly white Jack Russell girl, very friendly super temperament

Bo 1yr old Collie X lovely lab, Sorell 18mth Jack Russell girl, small friendly.

01588 676106.

**BICORN FRISSE** Puppies, boys and girls, happy and playful, first vac's £350. 07972 604503

**BLACK AND WHITE CATS** Free to love home due to bereavement female, 6 years old, spayed. 01902 656762

**BORDER COLLIE** Farm Pups, out of good working sheep dog, 12 weeks old, vet checked, vaccinated and wormed, nice colours, friendly. £125. 01694 781573.

**CAVALIERS & CAVAPOO'S** adorable puppies from £350. 07867 530504.

**COMPETITION TIPLERS**, for sale, Bovidens, £20 each. 01902 645320

**FREE TO GOOD HOME**, miniature, Jack Russell dog, three years old, neutered. To a loving home only. 07722 628961

**HOME FOR JESS** Rescue Staffie x, 12 in, litter, neutered, 8 weeks old, chipped, spayed, lovely nature, homes vetted. 07911 615991.

**SHIH TZU PUPPIES**, boys, good natured, 1st vac's, wormed and deflead, £350. 07972 604503.

**TOM CAT** needs kind home, very loving, age three, Black and White. £10. 01902 732913.

**TOM CAT** needs kind home, very loving, age three, Black and White. £10. 01902 732913.

**TWO GORGEOUS** Ginger Tom Kittens, 1 dark tortoiseshell female, litter trained, 8 weeks old, £30 each. 07980 365757.

**TWO TERRARIANS**, tank, 4ft x 2ft x 18 in, filter, heater and unit included, £160. 01902 561779.

**WANTED AFRICAN** grey hen, also any ex african grey pets, reasonable price only. 07881 811774.

**WANTED** tan coloured Jack Russell dog. 07910 811961.

**WELSH CORGI PUPPIES** Tri colour, boys and girls, many champions in pedigree, parents and puppies have outstanding temperament. £500. 07510 636539 or 07798 648115.

**WESTIE PUPPIES**, girls and boys, 1st vac's, wormed and deflead, £350. 07972 604503.

**YORKSHIRE PUPPIES**, small type, Mom and Dad, can be seen, ready now. 01902 550101 / 07987 729916.

**YORKSHIRE TERRIER** Puppies for sale, boys and girls, pedigree, flead and wormed, deposit secure. £200 each. 07590 558577 or 0121 4392727.

## property

### accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the provision of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**A ONE BED** fully furnished flat, middle age/single person, £95pw, Oxley area. 01902 238770

**A ONE BED** Over 50's flat, Chapel Ash, W-ton, £340pcm. Wednesday HA 01902 463603.

**BEAUTIFUL** 1 bedroom Flat, furnished, Compton Road, £390pcm. 07886 002704.

**BEDSITS** to let in shared house, near W-ton City Centre. £55pw, £100 deposit. 07900 658063.

**COMFORTABLE** TWO BED GF flat, £400pcm. One Bed large FF flat, £395pcm. Both on Tettenhall Road, Jones PMS 01902 423343

**DUDLEY** Furnished bed sitting room, own kitchen/bath, £265pw + tax, no DSS. 07512 688976.

**EN SUITE ROOM** Suit professional person/couple Goldthorn. £250/£300pcm. 07588 963003.

**HALESOWEN** 2-bed property, GCH, available immediately, no DSS, £395pcm. 07568 322995.

**HOUSE** to let, Friary Crescent, 3 bed, CH, DG, front and back gardens. 07424 504808.

**ONE AND THREE BED FLATS**, Tipton, DSS considered. 07961 301577 / 07906 878175.

**ROSEVILLE**, COSELEY. Lovely large 1-bed flat, secure parking, £370pcm. 07976 671074.

**STUDIO FLAT** BILSTON £100pw. Bills included. Parking Deposit required. 07944 925591.

**THREE BED HOUSE**, Parkfields, CH, DG, driveway, close buses, schools, £550pcm. 07950 133658.

**TWO BED DETACHED**, dining kitchen, lounge, bathrm, en-suite, new property, Old Hill, private parking. £550pcm. 07967 757388.

**TWO BED FLAT**, Northwood Park, newly decorated, deposit and refs required, £450pcm. No DSS. 07930 889922.

**TWO BEDROOM** large semi detached, no DSS, Garden, CH, lawn, Eastfields, Wolverhampton, £465pcm. 01902 657768.

**TWO-BED HOUSE**, in Wolverhampton. House share possible. Call for details. 07884 311638.

**MADELEY, TELFORD** 2 Bed fully refurbished home for sale in Madeley, new kitchen, new flooring, new CH and boiler, DG and redecorated throughout, enclosed rear garden and car port.

Property valued at £120,000 but offered at £109,950 for quick sale.

Call Kim now for a viewing on 07725 811115

**PERTON, WOLVERHAMPTON** Modern 3 bedroom detached property, comprises of lounge, separate dining room, newly fitted kitchen, further sitting room. First floor has 3 bedrooms and family bathroom.

Externally there is a garden to front and rear along with driveway. Also benefits from double glazing and gas fired central heating. Must be seen. No chain. 01789 995 000. 07510 636539 or 07798 648115.

**WESTIE PUPPIES**, girls and boys, 1st vac's, wormed and deflead, £350. 07972 604503.

**YORKSHIRE PUPPIES**, small type, Mom and Dad, can be seen, ready now. 01902 550101 / 07987 729916.

**YORKSHIRE TERRIER** Puppies for sale, boys and girls, pedigree, flead and wormed, deposit secure. £200 each. 07590 558577 or 0121 4392727.

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**MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC** SE 06 reg, 59,000 mi, may, gold, tax, taxed, MoT'd, lady owner, very good condition. £3,500.07956 968004.

**MINI 1** 54 reg, 46k, red chrome, pack, immaculate, alloy wheels, long MoT, FSH, any trial, £4,695. 01902 650105.

**PEUGEOT 206** Fever, 1.1, 5dr, 53 plate, 47,000 miles, metallic light blue, 12 months MoT, FSH, £1,950. 01562 884820.

**RENAULT CLIO 1.2** 5dr, metallic red, 84k, alloys, CL, EW, SR, PAS, MoT, May, excellent condition, £1,495 one. 07904 88746.

**RENAULT KANGOO** Expression, 1.6 Auto, tax April 2013, MoT May 2013, very good condition £1,500 one. 0123 537187 / 0750351646

**RENAULT MEGANE** Expression, red, 2004, 46,000 miles, good condition, part SH, 1 previous owner, £1,550. 07628 654359.

**SAAB 95 AUTOMATIC** Linear Sport 2005, 60,000 miles, grey, alarm, cruise control, alloy wheels, 6 months MoT, £1,525 one. 07788 915978

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8VVT**  
Twin top, (design) 2007, 62,000 miles, black sapphire, ABS, EW air bag, FSH, AC, fish, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, spots, petrol, keyless entry, auto lights, auto wipers, half leather interior, star start stop button  
£4,995.  
07590 197291

**VAUXHALL ASTRA SXi 1.6**, hatch, 2006, 75k, blue, MoT May, tax Nov, FSH, good condition, £2,750 one. 01384 827923.

**VAUXHALL CORSA**  
CLT 1.4  
Auto, 2009, 18,000 miles, tax May 2013, MoT Nov 2013, aircon, electric windows, electric mirrors, £5,285 one. 01902 865388

**VAUXHALL TIGRA** Cabriolet, 06, 2 owners, leather trim, silver, MoT, very nice condition, £3,500 one. 07519 866245 - 07708 705458.

**VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT** 2005, 116k miles, diesel, MoT, tax, grey, new belt, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, metallic paint, pas, alloys. £2,900 one. 01922 404679.

**VW PASSAT** 196cc, SE TDI, 57 plate, diesel, silver, injector unit recently fitted, MoT, tax, August 2013, 24,500, 07560 661429.

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**FORD KA** 2004, 12 months MoT, clean car, bargain £595. 07903 226347.

**FORD MONDEO 2.0** Zetec, W reg, 89k, met blue, tax till 30/11/13, MoT until 05/12/13, 2550, 01384 748588 or 07932 534262.

**MITSUBISHI CARISMA** 1.5, petrol, 1999, 8 MoT, tax, AC, tax, very clean and tidy, low mile, £395. 07966 277881.

**NISSAN PRIMERA GT** 1997, 20T, 150 BHP, taxed, MoT July, owners, serviced, £495. 07704 327245

**PEUGEOT 106 ZEST**, full MoT, 5 months tax, 1.1, 8.3k, 2000, V reg, 2 door, CD, economical, £475. 07939 03388.

**PEUGEOT 307** Estate 03 plate, tax MoT March, new clutch and fly wheel, £1,395 one.

**RENAULT MEGANE** Coupe, 2002, 1400cc, MoT June, older shape, excellent condition, 5000. 07925 40033.

**ROVER 416i** 99S, 2 owners, 4-dr saloon, white, full MoT, AC, EW, SR, low miles, excellent, £495 one. 01522 842186, 07564 207146.

**ROVER 75** Connoisseur CDT, diesel, 110,000 miles, full MoT, 8 months tax, very good condition, £1,500. 07913 671164.

**ROVER MGZR** 51 reg, full MoT, 73k miles, red, excellent condition, £375 one. 07590 830688.

**TOYOTA COROLLA** GS 2000, 1398 cc, petrol, MoT November 2013, 11 months tax, silver, £1,000. 01568 770553.

**TOYOTA RAV 4**, M reg, Auto, 11 months MoT, won't start, good spares or repair, £450, o.n.o. Telephone 01902 672688.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6** 16v Club, V reg, 44,350 miles, MoT, tax, alloys, air con, 5dr, petrol, in family since new, £1,195 one. 07767 894904.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6** petrol, Y reg, 2001, MoT May, tax, AC and good condition, £800 one. 07730 871076. 07739 574376.

**VAUXHALL TIGRA**, 2000(W), 79,000 miles, black, 12 months MoT, £550. 07944 610707.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA DI**, 1999, black, 44,000 miles, MoT, pas, alloys, music, excellent, £895. 07885 255221.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA SXi** 1.8, 2003, tax till May, MoT till April, FSH, very good condition, £1,250. 01384 830793.

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(T&C's below)

## SINGLE LADIES

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

**LIZ** 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

**JACKIE** lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTm kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400451

**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

**GRACE** Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400263

**CLARE** 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTm genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400199

**TRACY** 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

**CLARE** 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

**PAULA** 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**NATASHA** single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

**TRISH** tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**LOVING** caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

**ANGELA** green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

**LISA** attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, well maintained 25yr old uni student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

**I'm** Sharon an outgoing single mum looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

**SHARON** slim blonde blue eyed outgoing 30's female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400119

**I'm** Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice flirty glass of large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399715

**NICKY** lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189

**DEBBIE** sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759

**Hi** I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

**SUE** confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

**MARIA** French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

**LUCY** beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

**KATHERINE** 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

**Hi** I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

## PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

**TINA** young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

**BEV** 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

**MICHELLE** attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397919

**VICKY** honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

**DENISE** tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys night's in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

**JENNY** blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

**MAUREEN** seeks male 32-45 for relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

**SHAPELY** attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

**CAROLINE** 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

**KAREN** witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

**WIDOW** 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

**ALICIA** 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

**I'm** Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

**EASYGOING** down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

**LADY** young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

**PAULINE** attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

**CATHY** is a slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

**61YR** old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

**JANICE** 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

**SUSIE** gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

**LOUISE** youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

**HOME** alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

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**Ladies Text n' Chat.** Text in now and chat to local people. Send : **CHAT207 To : 65125.** (T&C's below).

**FRIENDLY** guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395991

**MALE** 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

**FRANK** tall, distinguished 68yr old male, professional gent, sensual, tactile, seeks similar, warm, responsive lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400967

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**KEITH** white male, 49, handsome, 6ft 2ins, seeks buxom black female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394094

**KARL** 28, black hair, brown eyes, smart, 5ft 3ins, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400953

**PAUL** 52, looking for friendship, possible relationship with someone who can make me happy in 2013. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400849

**MALE** 60, 5ft 10ins, loving, caring, seeking genuine female, any age, 40-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400513

**MALE** seeking blonde female, 55-60 for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400435

**COLIN** 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400389

**MALE** 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313

**STEVE** single dad, slim, 45, looking for girl who wants fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400257

**COLIN** 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400389

**GARY** 46, loyal, genuine, GSOH, down to earth, seeking attractive lady for relationship, South Shrops/North Herefordshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400237

**STEVE** 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218

**57YR** old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

**GARY** 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747

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**STEVE** 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

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**52YR** old single parent, 5ft 11ins, slim, likes most things, walks, nights out, cinema, animals, seeks caring, honest, trustworthy female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400039

**BRIAN** 73, fit, N/S, own home, likes walks, cycling, meals out, nights in, holidays, travel, seeks genuine, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399667

**GUY** early 60's, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim female, 30-60 for fun, adult times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399567

**LOOKING** for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941

**DAVID** slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

**MALE** fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346

**55YR** old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049

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**STEVEN** 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985

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**BRIAN** 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

**ROY** 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637

**INDIAN** male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

**JAMES** 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

**JOE** 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

**GOOD** looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340

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**CD** 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208

**MALE** 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

**GAY** male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735

**MALE** 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

**Bl** male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849



## Women TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

**GUYS TEXT FOR FUN.** SEND WOL followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

**BEAUTIFUL** thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know bnee. Text me. **Text WOL 159134 to 66888**

**FUN** blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text WOL 163788 to 66888**

**HEY** guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many bnee things. Text me! **Text WOL 168355 to 66888**

I am an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text WOL 172922 to 66888**

**FUN**, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text WOL 218842 to 66888**

I love going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text WOL 182056 to 66888**

## Men TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

**LADIES TEXT FOR FUN.** SEND LWOL followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

**DIVORCED** Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text WOL 488556 to 66888**

I love the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensual, with lots to share and give. **Text WOL 49**



## Healthy set of numbers sign up for the big run



ENTRIES are coming in now for the Action Heart five-mile run on Sunday, February 24 (9.30am).

If you have yet to start training, it's still not too late. The programme is flexible and you can accommodate a missed day by adding a couple of minutes to the other days and swapping the rest day to suit your individual situation.

Newcomers to running should remember to warm up before each session and warm down afterwards. It is helpful to stretch your leg muscles prior to running and brisk walking or jogging on the spot for five to 10 minutes is an effective way of preparing the body.

If you have decided to have a go, why not encourage others by letting them know how you are getting on? Call Joy Brown at Action Heart on 01384 292233 or email [running@action-heart.com](mailto:running@action-heart.com)

Do your running on well-lit roads and, if possible, with a friend.

Download an entry form for the event, which starts and finishes at Russell's Hall Hospital, at [www.action-heartrunning.com](http://www.action-heartrunning.com) and receive your race pack.

You can also enter online by going to [www.runner-world.co.uk](http://www.runner-world.co.uk)

### Training: Week Three

**Mon:** Rest  
**Tue:** One-mile jog  
**Wed:** Rest  
**Thu:** 15-min jog/walk  
**Friday:** Rest  
**Sat:** One-mile jog  
**Sun:** Two-mile jog/walk

## Athletic face biggest game

MIDLAND ALLIANCE side Gornal Athletic are preparing for the biggest game in their history on Saturday.

They have already rewritten the club record books by reaching the fourth round of the FA Vase – but a win at home over Wisbech Town would put them in the last 16 and just three games from Wembley.

The third round was Gornal's previous best. Vase prize money this season has already earned them £4,800, but a win on Saturday would net an extra £2,000.

# Royals rise up as Albion slumber

### Reading 3 Albion 2

A CRAZY final 10 minutes in Berkshire condemned Albion to defeat in a match they appeared to have under control.

In its 20-year history, the Premier League has provided countless dramatic finales, **writes Steve Madeley.**

Yet it's hard to imagine the competition has ever seen a turnaround quite as unlikely as this one.

Rarely can a team have been lulled into such a false sense of security as Albion were with Steve Clarke's men virtually sleep-walking to defeat before they realised quite what was

### Reading 3 Albion 2

happening. For 80 relatively uneventful minutes, Albion were as comfortable as they have ever been in a Premier League fixture.

Clarke's men led 2-0 and might easily have bagged two or three more goals as Romelu Lukaku and James Morrison ran riot.

Had Albion led 5-0 going into the closing stages, The Royals' boss Brian McDermott could have had few complaints.

What followed was utterly surreal for everyone and thoroughly agonising

for Baggies fans as Reading's impressive home lived up spectacularly to its local nickname – "The Mad Stad".

Jimmy Kebe's 81st-minute goal for the Royals was akin to Ian Botham's famous hundred against Australia at Headingley 1981 – a contribution that altered the course of a contest in a way his victims did not realise until it was too late.

Just like the Aussies believed "Beefy's" blistering knock in Leeds was just a bit of fun, so Albion seemed to believe Kebe's far-post header with nine minutes remaining was no more than a minor irritation.

By the time they realised its significance, Adam Le Fondre and Pavel Pogrebnyak had delivered the Bob Willis-esque hammer-blows and left Clarke and Co in a state of shock; heads spinning and brains fried.

Such a conclusion had seemed impossible when Lukaku rifled his 69th-minute thunderbolt past Adam Federici in the Reading goal to give the visitors a 2-0 lead.

He had already linked up with Morrison to fire the Baggies in front on 19 minutes, then seen a header rattle the woodwork and a thunderous shot shake it. And yet it was to be Reading's day.



Joy for Pavel Pogrebnyak as he bags the winner

# Baggies get winter blues with cup exit

### Albion 0 QPR 1

ALBION have lost their rhythm and now their season has a serious dose of the blues.

Once again, an FA Cup campaign which seemed to promise so much was left wanting – the Baggies beaten in a tepid third-round replay on Tuesday by one of only two attempts on goal from struggling QPR.

That Harry Redknapp's outfit needed some outstanding goalkeeping from the maligned Robert Green to protect their progress to a home tie with MK Dons was unquestionable, **writes Martin Swain.**

But the night's lasting impression was obvious. Albion are stuttering and stumbling at the moment – without a win since Boxing Day and now with their one avenue to glory shut down prematurely for a team courting with better talent than a KO from the Premier League's bottom club suggests.

### Genuine

Grumbles about too much rotation have been aggravated by a glut of injury problems which have conspired to leave a stern-faced Steve Clarke tackling this middle tranche of the season with key players either missing or misfiring.

That The Hawthorns barely roused itself for this tie – the ground was not even half full – will have had as much to do with the Arctic financial climate as much as the freezing temperatures.

Make no mistake, there was genuine and justified optimism that the club's best team since the first Ron Atkinson era could carry a concerted challenge for the FA's prime chunk of silverware.

But this fresh shut-out followed last season's fourth-round exit at home to Norwich and before that, Roberto Di Matteo's fateful misjudgement of a League Cup quarter-final at Ipswich when his Albion team were in full swing. From the surface, the club would appear to possess just the sort of squad to reach a final but



Former Wolves striker Jay Bothroyd condemns Albion to a Cup exit

bringing that perception to reality continues to elude one head coach after another.

QPR's late winner was headed home from a corner by a player football, and possibly even QPR fans, had forgotten. Jay Bothroyd, once the scorer of a goal to defeat Albion in a Black Country derby, came back to haunt them as he rose unchallenged to meet Alejandro Faurin's 75th-minute corner, directing his effort low to the left of Boaz Myhill, who could not get a strong enough hand on the ball to keep it out.

Only after that shock did Clarke's men stir themselves. From Albion's only purposeful raid of the first half, Green had distinguished himself by defying Romelu Lukaku at point-blank range after Jerome Thomas and Goran Popov had threaded together the set-up.

But the former England keeper had to produce four more important saves after

Bothroyd's goal to clinch the tie. The best was undoubtedly beating away a second consecutive goal-bound strike from Markus Rosenberg, Green having already defied the Swede within a minute of the Rangers goal after the Albion man had made the sweetest of connections to another Popov cross.

That was driven straight at him but Rosenberg's second effort, which climaxed some robust pressure four minutes later was slightly to the keeper's right, and required even more athleticism and reflexes.

Green then crowned his night by keeping out a tracer bullet from Popov, struck with ferocious power from what seemed an impossible range, before tipping over a 20-yard drive from Graham Dorrans.

That flurry left Albion fans wondering why on earth their team had not raised such a tempo and intent for the rest of the match



On me 'ead, son – Gabriel Tamas displays his skills

– something for which the players will not be so easily forgiven if they repeat such a docile performance against Aston Villa this weekend.

Clarke's squad badly needs to settle again which means, as much as possible, returning to the core players who engineered such a flourishing first half of the campaign.

But it is a pity that we did not see Thomas and Dorrans build on the bright starts they made to this tie to perhaps re-write the script for their Albion futures.

George Thorne is putting in some useful contributions in central midfield but Albion were again thankful to the probing of James Morrison and power of Lukaku for the few creative moments they mustered.

Billy Jones and Gareth McAuley were excellent again and are turning in splendid seasons and vital contributions while Albion wait patiently to get back to full health.

## Hawks are on track in an exciting home win

### Girls League Halas Hawks U15 3 Withymoor U15 1

AFTER a disappointing start to the year, Halas Hawks bounced back.

An exciting game is usually in prospect as these two teams meet and it was Withymoor who landed the first blow, taking the lead.

However, in the second half Halas took control with goals from Mia Bell, Abbey Willingale and Amy Blake-more. There was a creditable performance from goalkeeper Ciara Robinson-Morris and an excellent debut from Holly Williams.

### Boys League

#### Halas Hawks U11 East 2 Oldswinford Youth U11 0

Halas secured their fourth win in five games with a solid home performance.

In a tight first half, they went in front after 10 minutes thanks to a composed finish from Harvey Jacobs.

Both teams went close several times in the second period but the goalkeepers performed well and Halas stand in Joshua Yorke kept a clean sheet.

Halas wrapped up the points in the final minutes through Oliver Miller.

### Halas Hawks U16 3 Howley Grange U16 1

The under-16s made it safely through to round five of the Birmingham County Cup with a 3-1 victory against Howley Grange. Goals arrived from Dan Willetts, Rhys Boswell and Kane Griffiths York.

## Tipton hit five again

### Tipton Town 5 Highgate Utd 3

TIPTON TOWN went nap for a second successive weekend – but this time after a fightback.

After a 5-0 win over Coleshill, Tipton's excellent form looked to have gone as the visitors went 2-0 up in a Midland Alliance fixture.

Tipton got one back through Tom Tonks, to hit the ball home. They equalised in the 51st minute as Reuben Wilson guided home Richard Huckfield's lay-off and led two minutes through Karl Penney. Highgate retook the lead before Tonks scored again in the 81st minute with a header.

Jack Hayfield dived full-length to save a Highgate penalty before Nathan Waite scored in the final minute for Tipton.

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# SPORT

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**Double blow**  
Baggies' Cup exit  
and Premier defeat  
**Page 35**



**Get going**  
Week three training  
schedule for run  
**Page 35**

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Ben hits hat-trick as Yeltz win again

**Sheffield FC 0 Halesowen Town 3**  
A SUPERB performance by Halesowen was capped by a hat-trick from Ben Haseley as the hot-shot took his total to 30 in all competitions.

The Yeltz have now scored eight goals in two games without reply and are looking good for a play-off push from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League Division One South.

It took only four minutes for Haseley to get on the scoresheet when he turned his marker and fired home from 12 yards.

After this, Halesowen had to soak up a lot of pressure but were strong in defence and ensured the home side didn't have many chances.

Haseley had a further shot cleared off the line and his pace, along with that of Aaron Griffiths and Jean Michel-Gueyes was causing the Sheffield defence all sorts of problems although the score remained 1-0 at half-time.

But shortly after the break, Haseley and skipper Neil Barnfield played a neat one-two, with the former slotting home to make it 2-0. Halesowen then took control with some outstanding football.

On 68 minutes, Gueyes put Haseley clean through and he finished easily to make it three and complete a great afternoon for Halesowen.

## Harriers take on the mud

WEST BROMWICH Harriers finished in the top half in round three of the Birmingham and District cross-country league.

The club were out in force with 15 members racing at Droitwich and were eighth out of 18 to consolidate their overall ninth place.

Over a wet and extremely muddy 10.5km course, Girmal Dehl was their first man home in ninth place, clocking 43min 47 sec.

Other scorers were: 17th James Jefferies 45.28; 55th Gary Whitehouse 48.11; 64th Richard Powell 49.25; 83rd Dave Jones 51.46 and 92nd Ian Phillips 52.33.

Other finishers were: 119th Gary Woodhouse; 120th Andrew Moseley; 125th Jim Greenwood; 134th Dave Gould; 151st Dominic Ashton; 153rd Bob Meek; 155th Paul Stevens; 162nd Greg Anderson and 168th Dave McCarthy.

## No benefit for Old Hales despite yellow cards

**Old Halesonians 1 Hampton-in-Arden 3**  
OLD HALESONIANS men's firsts missed out in their second-versus-top clash against West Midlands Premier leaders Hampton-in-Arden.

Neither side could create too much early on, although Hales had the best early chance when Chris Hill found the side netting from a tight angle.

The first sight of a goal for the visitors came when Hampton were awarded a penalty corner. Their drag-flick specialist stepped up, but his shot was charged down by Hales defender Ben Hughes.

The visitors lost a player to a yellow card,

### Old Halesonians Hockey Club

but Old Hales were unable to take advantage. When Hampton got back to full strength, they scored from another penalty corner and added a second goal before the interval.

Old Halesonians refocused during the break and tried to mount a comeback against their unbeaten rivals.

Hales dominated possession and got a goal back after Hampton were again reduced to 10 players, this time for an aggressive tackle against Paul Woodall. As Hales fired shots at the Hampton goal, a

Tom Bulteel reverse stick chop from Tom Bulteel found the corner of the goal.

However, Hales' Simon Palmer was yellow-carded for persistent bad tackles and Hampton capitalised with their third goal before defending impeccably.

**Hampton-in-Arden 4 Old Halesonians 1**

Old Hales seconds took the lead in this friendly only to suffer a 4-1 defeat. The match started with them moving the ball around with confidence and scoring a good goal through Nic Penn after some fine link-up play with Charles Palmer. They worked

tirelessly up front to ensure the Hampton defence were not allowed time on the ball.

But sloppy marking saw the home side equalise before going in front with a penalty corner on the stroke of half-time. They scored two further goals in the second half.

**Old Halesonians 3 Kings Heath 2**

The thirds fought back from 2-1 down at half-time to win by the odd goal in five. Alex Evans reacted quickly to score after a save by the Kings Heath goalkeeper. Ten minutes from the end, Adam Hill levelled from close range and in the dying moments Matt Harrold converted a penalty corner.

**Other result: Kings Heath 1 Old Halesonians fourths 4**



Dominique McKee on the ball for Halesowen

## It's lucky seven for Town

**Brinklow Ladies 1 Halesowen Town Ladies 7**  
HALESOWEN hit seven second half goals against bottom club Brinklow.

It left Town a point behind Birmingham County Division Two leaders Rushall with a game in hand.

Injuries, illness and work commitments cut the Yeltz to 11 players with several of playing out of position.

They had first-half chances but excellent goal-keeping and poor finishing saw them go in a goal down. Within three minutes of the restart, Rachel Letford levelled and added another.

Glover netted a low drive and speedy striker Chloe Harris put Shannie Jennings through for a fine finish and 4-1.

Letford completed her hat-trick from a Glover cross. Goals from Sabrina Dale and Glover wrapped up the scoring.

They now prepare for the big clash at The Grove on Sunday (2pm) against Sporting Club Albion - West Bromwich Albion's women's team - in the county cup quarter-finals.

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# BATTLE CALL OVER CLASH WITH VILLA

**DEFENDER Gareth McAuley has warned Albion they have "no hiding place" as he urged the Baggies' senior players to lead them back to winning ways.**

Albion crashed out of the FA Cup on Tuesday with a third-round replay defeat to QPR at The Hawthorns - their fourth loss in their last five matches.

And McAuley is now calling for a show of defiance when Steve Clarke's men return to action in Saturday's Premier League derby against Villa.

"They're desperate for the points but we're desperate for a performance, for a win and for a clean sheet - for anything at the moment - and there's no better place to do it than a derby," said McAuley.

"There's no hiding place, especially in a derby game, and hopefully the crowd will pack The Hawthorns out and get behind us from the start.

### Prepare

"We're not happy to go out of the Cup. We weren't brilliant but I don't think the performance deserved for us to get beaten.

"Rob Green was fantastic in goal for QPR and conceding from a set-piece to lose a game is disappointing because it's something you prepare yourself for beforehand.

"But we've lost a few on the bounce now so we've got to dig deep and the senior guys in the squad have to get everyone together and get everyone positive because we have a very important game on Saturday."

The Baggies remain seventh in the Premier League after a stunning start to the season but have seen their form tail off in

by Steve Madeley

recent weeks following a spate of injuries.

McAuley admitted: "I don't know what's changed. "Maybe it's just little bits and piece and the rub of the green here and there.

"And we're missing players. There are quite a few just coming back from injury now and that will make us stronger again.

"We've just got to keep believing because we know it will turn around if we keep doing what we're asked to and perform to our best."

Clarke insisted he picked the strongest team he could.

"I only made four changes and two of them were enforced," the head coach said.

"I couldn't risk Jonas Olsson after he'd been out for so long by playing him in two games in such a short space of time.

"We have other important games coming up. And Chris Brunt has the flu. The squad has really been stretched to the limit over the last six weeks and we're not quite getting the breaks we need at the moment.

"But as a group we know what we're trying to do. It's a long season and we're going to have moments when things don't go particularly well for you. This is one of those moments."

## Welborn shapes up well for British title fight



From left, Jason Welborn, Christopher Keane and Martin Gethin in preparation for their fights tomorrow

ROWLEY REGIS' Jason Welborn has whipped himself into "the shape of his life" for his British title fight at Walsall Town Hall tomorrow night.

The challenger to Frankie Gavin's welterweight crown has put in 12 weeks of dedicated preparation in what has been his hardest training camp yet, writes Craig Birch.

The 26-year-old may have to put it all on the line against Britain's only world amateur title winner, a vastly talented southpaw from Birmingham.

Welborn put the finishing touches to

his preparations at Amphion ABC in the town hall this week alongside Walsall duo Martin Gethin and Christopher Keane.

Gethin boxes for the British and Commonwealth lightweight belts on the bill, while Keane has a shot at the Midlands cruiserweight titles.

And Welborn is aiming to do his bit to make it a hat-trick of home wins on the show, to be broadcast live on BoxNation.

He said: "Training has gone really well. I have got my diet spot-on and I'm

feeling really fit and strong. I have had 12 weeks of dedicated training. I have lived and breathed boxing every day.

"I sacrificed the festivities over Christmas and New Year and I'm feeling the best I've ever felt.

"I've had some great sparring with quick and tricky southpaws who mirror Gavin's style and I'm ready to take him on.

"I've been working hard and I'm feeling really strong. I know I can bang and I can feel that strength every time I throw my shots."

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